Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE. MECHANIC ARTS. LITERATURE. NEWS, &C.

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Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Agricultural Societies in Maine.

Their History, Work, and Results.

The past week has closed up our county and local fairs, which for a period of six weeks past, have taken up so large a share of the thought and effort of farmers in all parts of the State. Commencing with the State fair the first week of September, they have continued without intermission down to the middle of October, and with a few exceptions the weather has been very favorable, while the exhibitions generally have proved very successful.

The Kennebec County Society is the oldest association of its kind in the State, and is therefore the Parent of all the agricultural societies in Maine. This Society really has an organization dating back to 1787, having been established through the efforts of the late Dr. Vaughan of Hallowell; although its incorporation by the State of Massachusetts and continuous existence dates only from 1818. It has held forty-six annual exhibitions, and to it belongs the honor of being the parent of all the agricultural societies in Maine, of which there are now more than forty, besides a very large number, probably as many more, of town, district and local societies and agricultural clubs, which hold most successful and interesting exhibitions. For a period of fourteen years, or from 1818 to 1832, the old Kennebec Society stood alone the sole association in a large State, whose object was "to improve the art of husbandry and to elevate the calling of the husbandman." In 1832 two societies were incorporated, the Cumberland county and the East Somerset; and these were the only new societies organized previous to 1840, in which year the Franklin County society was incorporated, and in 1841 three were incorporated, the York, Oxford and Washington county societies. During this decade, or between 1840 and 1850, eight societies were incorporated; during the next, ten; and between 1860 and the present time, fifteen. In addition to the thirty-six county societies, there are in the State a State Agricultural, Pomological, Dairyman's, Stock Breeders' and Poultry societies; two or three local Poultry associations not incorporated, a Jersey Breeders' Association (incorporated), and a very large number of town and district Farmers's clubs and societies, together with numerous Horse Breeders' and Trotting associations. Several granges of the order of Patrons of Husbandry have also held exhibitions during the past year or two with good success. So that altogether we have in this State nearly one hundred societies and associations which are, in fact, centres of agricultural and industrial enterprise, agencies for stimulating the efforts and bettering the results of farm labor in its manifold directions, and tribunals of honorable competition, which everywhere conduces to the improvement of the art of husbandry and the elevation of the farmer's calling.

The work which these societies have performed, and the good they have accomplished for general farming, stock breeding and orcharding in Maine, is past all computation. It is largely through their agency that better breeds of all kinds of farm stock have been introduced, better fruits cultivated and better methods of culture and farm practice introduced. We do not deny that in some instances abuses and injustice may have grown into the management of some exhibitions or resulted from them; but at the same time the good they have wrought is infinitely more than the harm, and if our system of agricultural societies and competitive exhibitions were abolished, improvements in farm practices and methods would be at a stand-still or would progress backwards. For in truth, real progress in the right direction, and especially improvement in this great art of husbandry, depends greatly upon individual competition, and if a small premium can incite to this so much the better. The desire to excel is the motive of all public exhibitors, and from fair and honest competition comes the recognition of merit, and the applause to the person who triumphs. Every triumph carries forward improvement and places our agricultural system a step in advance of the past, towards better results and a more perfect and economical method.

We have one more thought in connection with this matter. Just now, at the close of the fair season of the present year, let their real and tangible results for the advancement of the agriculture of our State in any direction whatever, be gathered up for future guidance and use. Let the progressive farmers in every locality in the State, jot down in their note books or send to the agricultural newspapers the lessons which the exhibitions have taught them—the real and valuable lessons from which they may learn much and which can serve them a good turn in the future. In this way the good they are doing will not pass away with the final closing of the gates to the exhibition ground, but will be left to influence for good the future plans and work of the progressive farmer. Articles or reports embodying such lessons will be of far greater value than long lists of parties who have won premiums, and will most cheerfully be published by any journal in the State.

A Word about Exchanges.

Our exchanges just now are freighted with useful and interesting matter, of great value to all intelligent cultivators, and we really wish every subscriber to the FARMER was also able to take and read half a dozen of the leading agricultural journals of the country, beside. The *Country Gentleman*, to our thinking, has no equal in the entire field. The *American Cultivator* is full of life and energy, and its readable market and industrial articles are a feature of great excellence. The *Scientific Farmer* is always accurate, and if somewhat bookish, is nevertheless so practical as to be found almost indispensable to every working and thinking farmer. Prof. Atwater's articles on "Science applied to Farming" render the *American Agriculturist* of special value, and we hope to see them reprinted in a neat hand book, so that every farmer can have them always lying at hand on his table. The *Live Stock Journal*, *Gardener's Monthly* and *Massachusetts Ploughman* are each first class, and we always have a feast in reading their fair pages. Truly, the agricultural press is a power for good.

Some Experiments with Fertilizers.

Among the experiments conducted at the farm of the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, Orono, to some of which we have heretofore alluded, have been several upon the application of the different kinds of fertilizers to grass lands. One of these trials was made in 1872 on a mowing field of moderately heavy clay, the land of which was plowed in August and thoroughly fertilized. This field was being re-seeded to timothy and clover, and in the middle of the field seven plots of uniform size were measured, grass seed and fertilizers sown evenly and all harrowed in together about the middle of September. The several plots were manured as follows: the first with stable manure; the second with fish scrap; the third with a sort of special top dressing; the fourth with ammoniated superphosphate; the fifth with lime, and the sixth with unleached wood ashes, while to the seventh plot no manure of any kind was applied. To be more particular in regard to the nature of the fertilizers used, it may be said that the fish scrap was the pomace left after pressing the oil out of Menhaden. The top-dressing was a mixture of artificial fertilizers, calculated to furnish nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, in the proportions usually found in hay. The stable manure was applied at the rate of 6 cords per acre, and as the cost of the application to each plot was to be the same, the amount of the other fertilizers was very large, viz., at the rate, per acre, of about 1,400 lbs. of superphosphate, 2,500 lbs fish scrap, and 210 bushels of ashes.

Concerning the results of the above experiment it may be stated that no manure of any kind has been applied to the land since 1872, when the plots were manured with the above described fertilizers. Five crops of grass have been taken off, and plot No. 6 manured with ashes, has lead the rest from the start, and the fifth crop, this year, was good in quality and quantity. The timothy holds out well, with considerable clover, and but little of other grasses or weeds have appeared. Next to ashes, plot 1, (stable manure), did very well two or three years, but has since fallen off very much; the clover has nearly run out, and considerable red-top come in. Plot 3 proved somewhat inferior to plot 1, but was superior to plots 2 and 4, very probably on account of the potash it contained in the fish, and superphosphate having none. The fish scrap was rich in nitrogen, and contained also considerable phosphoric acid and lime. The first crop was good, the second poorer, and the last crop amounted to very little. The clover has disappeared, the timothy is scanty, both giving place to a sparse, inferior herbage. This is the characteristic effect of nitrogenous fertilizers—a quick, stimulating action, but their force is soon spent. The scant mineral food of the fish supplied one crop, after which its strength was mainly gone. The superphosphate, (plot 4), had less nitrogen and more phosphoric acid. The yield, though not as much as at first, was more lasting. Still, its effect was soon gone, and both clover and timothy fell away, and red-top, daisies, and weeds feebly filled their places. The phosphate, like the fish, was a partial, one-sided fertilizer, supplying part, but not all the crop needed, and it could not, like ashes, urge into activity from their sluggish combination in the soil, the materials which in itself were lacking. Plot 5 (lime) was no better than plot 7.

In regard to the lessons to be drawn from the above experiment, Prof. W. O. Atwater of Middletown University, Conn., and who was for sometime Professor of chemistry at Orono, thus writes in the October number of the *American Agriculturist*:—

"One experiment does not prove a principle. The chief value of the above is for the special place where it was made, but it is clear that for that time and place ashes brought the best returns for the money, and horse manure the next; and I should not be surprised if Mr. Farrington finds, as many other farmers have done, that even leached ashes, at 18 to 28 cents per bushel, would be more profitable than any superphosphate he could get at $45 per ton, or guano at $60. I know there are many soils on which guano, nitrogenous superphosphate, or bone, will bring good crops for years and years. Where the nitrogen, and phosphoric acid, and lime they supply is all that is needed, and can be got in them most cheaply, there is the place to use them. By mixing these with German potash salts, complete fertilizers may be made which, like the top-dressing in Mr. Farrington's experiment, will do good work. Sometimes such mixtures will serve as well as the best barnyard manure or ashes. But the ashes and manure are always sure, and in the majority of cases the results would, I believe, be very much like Mr. Farrington's."

The Book Shelf.

Now that the long evenings are approaching, which give the farmers and mechanics a choice opportunity for reading—that best of all recreations for the working man, because it furnishes him with amusement and instruction at the same time—the book shelf will need replenishing. Knowledge is constantly being diffused and new and fresh information is being disemminated by means of books magazine and paper. The farmer and mechanic must keep up with the times in matters pertaining to his calling and general intelligence, and if he have a family he cannot afford to deny them books. At this season every intelligent and progressive farmer should look over the books on his shelf, make up his mind how much he can spend for new works, and then make a judicious selection from the late issues of the day for winter reading and study. A few dollars will go a good ways and be a means of great pleasure and enjoyment, if spent for a few good books. Provide two or three of the best practical treatises for the farm or shop, (in the special line in which you may be interested,) then get a volume or two of travels or biography, and don't forget a few wholesome story books for the children and younger members of the family. All these will cost but a small sum and will prove one of the best investments ever made in the house. Continued for a few years quite a family library may be gathered at small cost, and its possession will give a charm to the home, be a means of conveying useful knowledge and keep the children around the family fireside, when they would otherwise be seeking amusement and recreation away from home. In making plans and laying in supplies for the winter, do not forget a few good books, books which will become true friends and helpers in your calling, and which may be read aloud in the family, to the enjoyment and profit of every member of the home circle.

Different Orders of Reward and Success.

The recent exhibition of the State Pomological Society, which was one of high character and merit, but which nobody attended, offers another evidence, if additional evidences were needed, of the fact so often mentioned, that people do not appreciate the advantages within their reach, and that the hard work necessary to be done by societies for the good of the many, must always be performed by a few earnest, patient laborers, who get in return nothing but thanks, and but a scanty supply even, of that. So far as attractiveness, positive merit, and importance are of value, the exhibition at Waterville deserves high rank. It was large, well arranged and beautiful. Moreover the collections were so systematically arranged and classified, that so far as the fruits of our State are concerned, the exhibition was a sort of educational museum, an object school of practical pomology. There were varieties of apples, pears and grapes from all parts of the State, grown in similar and in diverse localities, affording excellent opportunities for the intelligent orchardist to study, compare, and stuff a note book full of intelligent and valuable observations from practical men. And yet this effort on the part of the officers of this useful society was to a great degree lost. Not twenty persons aside from officials and reporters were in the hall at any one time during the four days' exhibition. Surely if the Society depended for its maintenance upon receipts from admissions to its fairs, it would long ago have ceased its existence. There are hundreds for the horse trot and the singers of negro melodies, but hardly a cent for the legitimate work of promoting the knowledge of, and extending the culture of fruits and flowers, those silent ministers of health and beauty, throughout our State.

But there is one source of encouragement and reward for the faithful laborers of this Society,—the publication of its transactions. Here its doings are perpetuated, its work given permanent form, and its influence for good in the coming years fully assured. Its fairs may not be attended, or may be forgotten, but in its transactions it lives, and here is its record and its claim to authority. By the annual volumes which it is publishlishing it will be best known, and they will be consulted as authority on Maine pomological matters for years to come. Then let not its officers be discouraged if its fairs do not *draw;* they are performing a most commendable work, the soul of which will live in its printed volumes, though men turn aside from its beautiful exhibitions. Nor is their experience a new or strange one. It is the same everywhere, and with many different kinds of societies and associations, whose labors are very useful to humanity; upon the few rests the burden of doing the work and of reaping the poor reward—unless the reward be of such a nature as is not weighed or measured in the balance of mere money. Surely there are some things of greater worth than dollars.

Fall Preparation of the Soil.

We again urge, in all cases where it is practicable—where the farmer can command the time from village appointments, and similar necessary duties on leisure days, and when the weather will admit of it, as seems so favorable the present fall—the autumn preparation of land for the grain and hoed crops of the coming season: not merely the usual plowing of greed sward, but the harrowing and manuring of land intended for corn and wheat. Our favorable spring weather for cultivating and planting is often retarded by heavy rains, so that much land cannot be worked until late; but if thoroughly prepared for the crop in the fall the seed can be put in as soon as the top of the ground is dry, or before it could ordinarily be plowed. All work of this kind which can be done to advantage now, forwards the labors of another seed time, and helps to introduce a system which, if generally adopted, would be of great importance to the agriculture of our State.

Editorial Notes.

Town fairs occur the present week at Dresden and East Surry, and the session of the State Board of Agriculture takes place at Alfred.

We learn that Col. C. P. Mattocks, of Portland, has just imported some fine Berkshires from Humphrey, and Costwolds from Garne. His famous boar Nabob, 757, bred by Swanwick, won the first premium at the recent New England Fair, and a pen of four Cotswold ewes, recently imported by him, took the first premium as yearlings.

Dr. E. Maxwell V. S., of Portland, sends us samples of the cattle tick, which he recently found infesting some of the cattle at Cape Elizabeth, and which in some instances adhered so closely to the animal as to tear away the flesh when taken off. We much regret that his note accompanying the insects got misplaced, or lost from our table, so that we are unable to give names of parties mentioned.

We learn that C. P. Gregg, Esq., of Trumansburg, N. Y., goes to Europe next month to look after the largely increasing sale in that country of the popular Meadow King Mower. In this State—where the business is managed by Hon. Fred Atwood of Winterport—as well as throughout New England, the Gregg Sulky Plow, iron beam plows and the Gregg Lawn mower are having large sales.

Among the additional contributions to our office agricultural exhibition, we mention handsome traces of corn from J. E. Kimball of Vassalboro', and J. W. Trask of Augusta. The former gentleman reports sixty bushels of shelled corn to the acre, and the latter forty bushels of ears on one half an acre, the land having been broken the middle of May. Mr. M. B. Stevens of Sidney also sends us a pumpkin weighing 37 lbs, and good specimens of ruta bagas, one of which weighs 16 1-2 lbs. The contributors will please accept our thanks.

A correspondent at Portland enquires for "a reliable work on orchards and orcharding, one which will give a good idea of setting out and caring for apple, pear and plum trees." For our latitude there is no work so good as The American Fruit Culturist, by John J. Thomas. It is full of plain information, trustworthy in every detail, reliable as to its descriptions of fruits, and while compassing the whole subject of fruit culture in New England, is of convenient size and moderate in cost. A. Williams & Co., 283 Washington St., Boston. will send it by mail on receipt of price, $2.50.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

North Waldo Fair.

The North Waldo Agricultural Society held its seventeenth annual fair at Thorndike, Thursday Oct. 4th. The day opened cloudy and somewhat rainy and the prospect for a fair was not very bright. But towards noon the contributions came in with a grand rush, and soon the commodious hall of Mr. Gordon was filled, and a goodly array of neat stock and horses appeared upon the grounds.

The season has been in many respects an unfavorable one. May, June, July and August were so dry that the hay and grain crops were much below the average; while potatoes were attacked by rust as soon as the wet weather commenced. On account of this shrinkage of crops farmers have been disposing of their full grown neat stock, and, in short, everything that could be "turned as beef" has been put into the market. Such a drain could but have an appreciable effect upon the display at the fair. Yet in spite of these unfavoring circumstances the exhibition was fully equal to those of former years, and in some respects superior to most of them.

The first division, which included all neat stock contained some of the finest animals in the State. Mr. P. W. Ayer, of Freedom, exhibited his herd of Shorthorns, at the head of which stands the noble Knight of Geneva, girths 6 ft. 8 inches, and is a fine animal. Among oxen we noticed a large and handsome pair presented by Coffin & White of Thorndike, famous for raising cattle of enormous size and weight. They also shew a heavy well matched pair of 3 year olds measuring 7 ft. 3 inches in girth. A. D. Bumps and A. S. Rand each exhibited a good pair of working oxen. E. C. Fenderson, of Jackson, presented a lusty pair of draft oxen. Paris Ayer of Thorndike exhibited a large pair of oxen which were worthy of notice. J. E. Bessey presented a nice pair of steers two years old which measured 6 ft. 2 inches, and were well matched. But the most interesting exhibition on the grounds was made by Robert M. Oliver of Freedom, who exhibited four beautiful steers, under such excellent training that they constantly drew a crowd of spectators while they handled a cart in a wonderfully skillful manner. These steers were exhibited at the State Fair last year where they elicited warm praise and drew the special premium for trained steers. One pair four years old girth 7 ft. 3 inches, the others are three years old and measure 7 ft.

The show of cows was good. Among the principal exhibitors were Chas. Bessey of Unity, C. E. Smith, A. Coffin, Isaac Hodgman and Philip Scribner, Freedom. Mr. Hodgman and Mr. Scribner presented a number of Jersey cows and heifers. The other departments of neat stock made a fair show. The show of horses was not large, but some good stock was on the ground. Benj. R. Hunt was awarded the first premium on his stallion Fearnaught, by Empire. Levi Rich, of Jackson, exhibited a splendid Knox stallion and was awarded the second prize. Chas. Bessey drew the third prize on a good animal of this class. J. E. Bessey was awarded the first prize on three year old stallions, and Geo. Ingraham the first on two year olds. On three year old colts, Alfred Gerrish, C. R. Jones and John Webb took the premiums. John Thompson was awarded the first premium on colts two years old and Anthony Morse the first on yearlings. Robert Cornforth shew a good mare and foal. The only pair of matched horses entered for premium was exhibited by Edwin Rand, of Unity. Mr. Rand thinks he has a pair of horses which are hard to beat. In the class of carriage horses—single—there was considerable competition. The premiums were awarded to Edwin Stevens, A. D. Bumps and Nathan Morton. The sheep pens were well filled by J. M. Thompson, A. D. Bumps, A. Coffin and S. W. Webb. Edward Shibles exhibited a very large and handsome sow and pigs of the White Chester breed; Frank Call some handsome Berkshires. Chas. Vose and N. A. Cates were exhibitors in this department. Edward Shibles shew a fine lot of Leghorn hens.

The drawing of oxen drew a large crowd of spectators. The drag was loaded with two huge bowlders whose weight was not determined. E. C. Fenderson hooked on a pair of large oxen 7 years old which walked off 46 ft. at the first pull. A. D. Bumps then put on a pair which measured 7 ft. 2 inches, but they found the load rather heavy to handle with ease. The next pair was R. M. Oliver's four year olds which made the handsomest pull for the day. Being younger and lighter than Mr. Fenderson's they did not go so far, but stopped at 26 ft. from the point of starting. Mr. R. S. Rich then put on a pair of rather light horses which made a good pull.

The hall was well filled with corn, vegetables, and all the innumerable things which the ladies are so skillful to prepare. The hall was crowded all the time and it was not easy to make a critical examination of all the articles exhibited. The show of vegetables was equal to any of former years. The mammoth squashes attracted considerable attention. A. R. Murch exhibited two which weighed respectively 64 and 62 1-2 lbs. W. Webb's weighed 78 lbs. and was awarded first premium. N. A. Cates. D. B. Johnson, L. B. Harding and W. Webb, were the principal contributors to the show of vegetables. E. M. Barker, Isaac Hodgman, D. B. Johnson, H. B. Rice and P. W. Ayer were the chief exhibitors of fruit. Mrs. E. M. Barker, Mrs. R. Hawes, Mrs. J. P. Libby, Mrs. Robert Cornforth, Mrs. I. Hall, Miss C. E. Webb, contributed largely to the ladies' department. Mrs. Frank Bachelder made a fine exhibit of fancy work, noticeable among which was a beautiful leather wreath. Mrs. Melvin Foster made quite a display of fancy work. Mrs. Robert Cornforth presented a number of pieces of home-made cloth which attracted general attention. Mrs. S. N. Tilton, Mrs. E. E. Ware, Mrs. J. P. Libby and Mrs. R. Cornforth contributed dairy products.

Amos Webb, Jr., made quite an extensive exhibit of grain and vegetables, and was awarded first premiums on wheat and oats. The show of corn was excellent; P. Moulton & Son, J. M. Thompson, D. B. Johnson and S. N. Tilton being among the exhibitors. H. B. Rice, Unity, exhibited a splendid harness. Upon the whole the fair was a decided success. The shortness of the time rendered some confusion necessary in the hall, for the dark morning prevented people from making early entries; and the rain at night caused them to hasten their departure.

W. WEBB, *Sec'y.*

For the Maine Farmer.

The Maine Pomological Society.

This Society has just held its fifth annual exhibition, which took place at Waterville, Sept. 25–28, accounts of which have appeared in the journals of the day. In many respects it was the most successful Show and Fair yet held; as it was the largest in extent and among the very best in quality.

Preliminary arrangements were made for the annual winter meeting for discussion of topics pertaining to fruit growing. "It is the object of the Society, among other things, to build up a system of Pomology adapted to the situation of the State with reference to soil, climate, markets, etc.; and to find out and make known the best methods to achieve profitable results in the shortest time, thereby enabling the planter to avoid the losses resulting from useless experiments and unwise purchases, and to save to the State the thousands of dollars that are annually expended for trees of worthless and untried varieties."

The Reports, which are published in the Report of the Maine Board of Agriculture and also separately are of great value. Every progressive farmer and fruit-grower should become a member of the Society and identified with its objects and interests, as an earnest worker in the Society for the cause it is carrying forward. The aims and objects becoming yearly better understood, greater interest is manifested in it. Only through this body can the fruit interests of the State be practically and materially benefitted. The means are organized at hand, the doors of the Society are open, membership therein is easily accessible, and the work to do is of sufficient magnitude and importance to require the united efforts of all.

The Society has held five successful exhibitions, four important winter meetings for discussion and comparison of notes, and published four invaluable volumes upon the Pomology of Maine. I most cordially invite every one interested in fruit or flowers to join the Society and help on the good work.

J. W. LANG.

For the Maine Farmer.

The Prospect.

The season has been very unfavorable in many parts of the State, for the farming community; the severe drought and short crops in connection with the hard times and the scarcity of money, have made farmers feel poor. The sellers are many; those who feel able to purchase are few. The disposition seems to be general, to winter as little stock as possible. No doubt many be over-stocked and will be compelled to dispose in some way of the surplus. The diminution of the winter rations is however, overestimated by many; for while as a whole, the falling off is not so great as many suppose, the extra quality of what was housed will compensate the loss of bulk. There must be much more nutriment in a given quantity of hay than usual, astests by weight, taste and feeding will make apparent; the crop was also harvested in excellent condition. In consequence of these facts hay will easily satisfy the wants of animals—will "spend well."

Is it policy for farmers to reduce their stock, or for those wishing to purchase to delay till another season? I am of the opinion that the present is one of the most favorable times to make investments in stock. Not for many years have animals been offered so low. Purchasers are placed in an exceeding favorable position, having complete command of the situation, and in many instances being able almost to make their own prices. Many herds and flocks will be much reduced in numbers before housing time, and the ensuing spring will find farmers desirous of filling their pastures. Consequently prices must rule higher. The extra fall feed is doing much to relieve the drain upon the hay mow, and is also an evidence of a probable large crop of hay and plenty of pasturage next year. With plenty of hay stock is in demand and high.

It is always good policy to purchase when things are low. We are then placed in position to take advantage of the rise when it comes, as it always will. Like as the tide's ebb and flow, high water always succeeding low, so with all business, there are seasons of depression followed by an inevitable reaction. To be sure, these periods are variable in duration; but they are nevertheless as certain to succeed each other, as drought and wet, or heat and cold. At present the returns of the farmer are small, but such is also the case in all other business. In fact, many in other occupations are not doing as well as the average farmer. There is a general stagnation in business, but certainly the bottom must have been reached, for there are evidences of a re-establishment of confidence, in the revival of business and the providence of the means for carrying it on. To use a popular expression, we have "got down to hard pan," and the weaker ones in business have "gone to the wall." We make the new start then on firmer ground and with a feeling of greater confidence in the result from the increased security.

One of the worst features resulting from carrying a smaller number of animals through the winter, will be manifested in the diminished amount of fertilizers for the next season. That extra acre that so troubles Mr. Thing, surely can not be planted under such conditions, not even if an extra amount of muck is dug. Perhaps, however, our friend from his knowledge of the needs of farmers, manifested in defending them from the encroachments of advice, can suggest a remedy. With a contracted supply of manure, all the receipts from the farm, both directly and indirectly, will be decreased.

Do not then sell at a sacrifice, if it can be helped. Perhaps it will pay to buy some of the western corn that is now so cheap. Although so much has lately been said against such a proceeding, yet it is better to buy, if it can possibly be done, than to go through the winter without any corn.

Augusta. J. W. NORTH, JR.

For the Maine Farmer.

North Penobscot Fair.

As your correspondent chanced to be in Lincoln at the time this Society was holding its annual fair, by invitation of some of the Trustees he spent the two days on which it was held, Sept. 26th and 27th, at Lincoln lower village. The first day of the exhibition was exceedingly warm and pleasant, and quite early in the morning the village began to present a lively appearance as the farmers began to bring in their various contributions to the fair. I give a few notes of the same below:

In visiting the cattle pens the first lot I came to was the farm herd of Francis Cram, which consisted of natives and grade Herefords, some of them fine animals which bore off some of the premiums. Mr. Cram also had the only flock of sheep on exhibition, and of course took the first premium. Next came the splendid herd of Herefords belonging to J. C. Emerson, twenty-four in number, which was by far the best individual exhibit in the cattle department. Mr. Emerson has taken much pains to improve his stock and a look at his sleek handsome white faces, shows at once that he has succeeded, as among his herd were some as good animals of their class as I have ever seen. H. Priest of Lowell shew a thoroughbred Hereford bull two years old, from the herd of Hon. John Morrison of East Corinth—a fine animal, one hard to be excelled. Mr. Priest also had the best two year old heifer on the ground. Among exhibiters of Jerseys were Mr. Edwards and Mr. Robinson—the latter gentleman showing a cow which took the first premium in her class. There was a considerable number of cows, heifers and young stock, but as I could not learn the names of exhibitors I am unable to give any report of the same.

There were several pairs of nice working oxen and some very handsome steers. L. Clay had a yoke of matched steers four years old, which were "as handsome as a picture;" H. Heald shew a yoke of nice six year old oxen, and Mrs. Hersey two pairs of Dutch steers two and three years old, respectively, which were the best animals of their class on the grounds. After a careful examination of the stock, I am free to say the exhibition in this respect compared well with the fairs of older societies I have attended in the western portion of the State.

The afternoon was devoted to the drawing match, examination of stock by the committees and to arranging the hall exhibition. There is one feature of our agricultural fairs which I wish might be discontinued—I refer to the putting of a yoke of oxen or span of horses to a drag loaded with a greater load than they ought to draw and then whipping and goading them to make them pull it. There is no sense in such an exhibition, and in some instances it amounts to nothing less than downright cruelty to the animals. The place to discipline oxen and make them work is at home, not in a crowd of men and boys who are halloing and screeching in such a manner as to frighten the poor oxen almost to death.

The Second Day

was devoted to the exhibition of horses and the display in the hall; which by ten o'clock A. M., was filled with a large assemblage of people. There were but few horses entered, and I regret I am unable to give names of exhibiters. The display of vegetables and farm and garden crops in the hall were such as did credit to the exhibitors. J. Burland shew some large beets, twelve of which filled a bushel and a half basket, and some of which weighed over 12 lbs. each. The show of fruit was small, as was to have been expected, but was of excellent quality. There were nine lots of June and September butter on exhibition, and but a single cheese. In the household department were a good selection of rugs, quilts, hose, domestic yarn, cloth, &c., while among the needle and fancy work were many highly wrought and attractive displays. The ladies certainly deserve praise for filling their department, for had it not been well filled and attractively arranged as it was, the hall exhibition would have lost much in character.

Finally the Society ought to feel pleased with their success, as their exhibition, in all departments did great credit to those engaged in the work of getting it up. Your correspondent would hereby tender thanks for kindnesses and attentions shown him.

Lincoln. J. P. C.

For the Maine Farmer.

Notes of a Trip through Hancock County.

Number Three.

The general depression in business, which has turned the attention of so many, recently engaged in other pursuits, to farming, is already giving evidences even here, where so large a portion of the soil is naturally rather sterile, well directed labor will bring its reward to the husbandman.—"These hard times will yet prove a blessing to our county by driving us to improve the neglected soil"—is the voice of sensible men. The abundant crops just harvested, as the result in part, at least of the strong efforts put forth one year ago, will even now attest to this assertion. The feeling has been so stimulated during this favored season for improving the farms, that the live men here are now working the soil with the same energy that was displayed in other pursuits in former years.

The value of fertilizers from the sea shore is being fairly estimated, and never before have such quantities of "muscle bed" been taken out and deposited for coming crops in one season. One hundred scow loads, each equal to about thirty horse loads, are being used, I am told, by one farmer in Franklin on a few acres, while hundreds are doing all they can to gather fertilizers. Swamps and runs are being drained and the mud and muck utilized in the compost heap.

While visiting Amherst, I had a pleasant interview with A. H. Bussell, proprietor of the tannery at that place, also an enthusiastic farmer, who showed me a field of greensward he was just turning over after mowing it seventeen successive years, and cutting not less than one and a half tons per acre in any season—the result of *thorough plowing and manuring* before seeding, and next top-dressing at the end of ten years with the rich deposit around the tannery. His favorite method now is to turn under in October a good coat of manure, mostly made from his tannery, and then spread on and harrow in another coat of compost, leaving the field smooth enough for mowing, and the following spring, just as the snow is leaving, sows his grass seed. By this course he is sure to get a heavy and lasting crop. He has sold sixty tons of hay in one season, and he cut sixty tons the past year. The soil is a clayey loam. He says he has sowed timothy, "brown-top" and clover; but he does not get any brown-top; clover, too, soon dies out; but on a lot where he had sowed ashes the clover had sprung up and is now vigorous. Our friend Buzzell wants the FARMER to use its influence in encouraging farmers to raise other stock than *fast horses*, which has been the ruin of so many young men. [Just what it has been doing. —ED.]

The past dry weather has so affected wells and streams as to prove a great inconvenience to many. Some farmers have to go twenty-five miles to mill. Splendid crops of corn have been harvested from the small fields planted, mostly back from the seaboard, and there has been no frost yet to damage any thing; even fodder corn not yet cut is looking fresh, and the autumn flowers in the "front yards" still show their brilliant colors.

Increased attention is being given to the cultivation of cranberries, and the crop is fair, except in some places where destroyed by worms or June frosts. In the absence of apples this fruit seems almost indispensable.

There is rejoicing here today in this smart rain, which it is hoped will start the mills and give laboring men a chance to work once more. One of the finest residences in this county has recently been completed in Ellsworth, costing about $30,000, owned by Seth Hall, of the firm of Hall Brothers, who have recently gone into bankruptcy, with liabilities of $200,000. T.

For the Maine Farmer.

The Season in Eastern Cumberland.

Large Crops of Wheat and Hay.

Harvesting is about finished in this locality, and all farm crops have been fully equal to the average of previous years, except the apple crop. Near the sea shore the orchards have yielded a good crop of apples, while a mile or two inland, but very few apples or pears were raised this season. The difference I cannot account for, unless those having orchards near the shore make their trees productive by mulching with rock-weed, or the sea air is not favorable to injurious insects.

Our farmers have gathered good crops of the Lost Nation wheat this season, and a larger amount was sown the past spring than usual. Mr. Patrick McManus harvested forty-seven bushels from two and a half bushels sown. The only dressing used was muscle mud on green sward, broken up last fall. Mr. B. L. Pennel raised twenty-six and a half bushels, thresher's measure, or twenty-eight bushels by weight, from one bushel sown. As Mr. P makes a specialty of choice breeds of poulty, and keeps a large flock, I presume he dressed his land liberally with home made guano. On Mere Point, the farmers averaged raising over twenty-five bushels of wheat to each farm.

Several valuable farms have changed ownership here within a few days. Messrs. Geo. Grows and H. M. Bowker sold their farm which has yielded eighty tons of hay yearly, for three years past. They purchased the farm eight years ago, when it cut only nine tons of hay, and by liberal dressing with stable manure and muscle mud and some improvement by draining they have caused their land to increase in productiveness as above stated. Their farm has also been very productive in wheat and root crops.

The exhibition of field, garden an orchard crops at our late fair was equal to previous years, and the attendance was large, although a part of the time the weather was unfavorable. M.

Brunswick.

For the Maine Farmer.

Franklin Central Agricultural Society.

The annual Show and Fair occurred at its grounds in Strong, on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 3d and 4th. The total number of entries was large, although of neat stock not quite so large as in previous years. Owing to the short hay crop we were deprived of many fine oxen and other displays in this department. The morning looked like rain, and people from the neighboring towns did not favor us with their presence in as goodly numbers as usual. The attendance was very satisfactory, however, and by ten o'clock the grounds presented a very lively appearance.

The exhibit of oxen and steers was fine, and the good workers showed their muscle when tested at the drawing match. Among the cattle, the noted Jersey bull Macduff, owned by S. Morrill of Strong, was the most conspicuous, being one of the finest animals in the State. There were the usual large number of Jerseys, Ayrshires and Shorthorns. The display of grades was not large, but very good, several interesting lots being presented. Among these was a very fine herd owned by J. M. Kempton, Esq. of Strong. Hiram Cook of Avon shew a very large and handsome bull calf four months and ten days old.

The display of horses and colts, both in numbers and quality was hard to surpass. Mr. John Hoyt of Phillips presented a fine display of the noted Morgan blood, consisting of the splendid stallion Black Hawk Chief, a fine three year old stallion and two large breeding mares with foal; Mr. R. Graffam of Salem a handsome Knox stallion six years old; and Maj. Wm. Bates a fine English stock horse. These, with a large display of the Eaton and Bennett stock of all sizes and ages made a fine exhibit. Of sheep and lambs, several fine lots were entered. P. Daggett and Luce & Vaughan carried off the premiums for fine wool, and J. Lambert and L. Vaughan on coarse wool. Swine and fowl were well represented by herds and breeds of various kinds.

The Second Day.

dawned with a drizzly rain, but contrary to the expectations of all, the attendance was large and the display one of the finest we ever had. We can only notice the most interesting features: first of which was the large and heavily laden tables of ladies' fancy work, attractively arranged with pot plants and cut flowers in great variety, while the show of rugs, carpeting, quilts and puffs was not deficient. A silk quilt, composed of 1650 pieces attracted much attention. The artistic taste of the ladies was also represented in oil paintings, crayons and pencilings in considerable numbers.

The display of corn, vegetables and dairy products was large. The show of fruit was also good, the largest entries being of 24 varieties. Pumpkins, squashes, turnips, pears, grapes and fruits of all kinds were, for this year of scarcity, quite abundant. At a table of farm products, raised and presented by J. M. Lambert, we counted forty varieties.

The address by L. L. Lucas of St. Albans upon the farm and its management, was pronounced able and instructive. Music by the West Farmington Brass Band enlivened the occasion, and we all returned to our homes feeling that the third annual exhibition had been a success.

Strong. A. J. PORTER, *Sec'y.*

For the Maine Farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Rain Fall at Brunswick.

The amount of rain during the month of September was 1 2-10 inches. First light frost, in cool localities 23d. Highest thermometer 13th 83°—lowest 23d 39°. M.

North Waldo Agricultural Society.

The annual meeting of the members of the North Waldo Agricultural Society occurs at Unity village, Saturday Oct. 27th, at 9 A. M., for the election of officers, reading Treasurer's report, and for transacting any other business which may come before the meeting.

Let all interested attend, and make arrangements for the next fair.

Unity. W. WEBB, *Sec'y.*

The Soil as a Stomach.

Mr. Joseph Harris, in a late number of his "Talks with the Deacon," in the *American Cultivator*, says:—

When Prof. Way made his notable discovery in regard to double silicates, he spoke of the soil as a "stomach," that digested food for plants. And every now and then the same idea crops out in different forms in our agricultural literature. Illustrations are often very useful in conveying our meaning, but they need to be used with great care or they lead to grave errors. Huxtable once said he could make a turnip grow on a "deal board," and when he was president of the Royal Agricultural Society it is said that he actually exhibited a turnip growing in the hollow of an old log, and which he had fed with plant food furnished by Prof. Way. This was intended to show that the soil was merely a receptacle for holding food. But Way, when he found that ammonia would displace potash, and potash soda, and that changes were constantly going on in the soil, then spoke of it as a stomach that not merely holds but digests food.

Prof. S. W. Johnson, when writing, some years ago, on Way's experiments and the later researches of Eichhorn, says: "The soil is not only the ultimate *exhaustless source* of mineral food to vegetation, but it is the storehouse and conservatory of this food [not, mark you, merely of that which we furnish in manure], protecting its own resources from waste and from rapid use, and converting the highly soluble matters of animal excuvia, as well as of artificial refuse (manures), into permanent supplies."

This is the true idea of the soil. It is a receptacle for holding manure, a stomach for digesting and preparing it, and an "exhaustless source" or mine of plant-food. But, like other mines, it needs to be worked. The plant-food is there, and it is the business of the farmer to get it out. As a rule we can do this to the best advantage by furnishing a portion of the needed plant-food in the form of manure, and so work the land that, under the influence of the air, rain, dew, heat and cold, the soil shall furnish the other portion. It is poor economy to depend *alone* either on tillage or on manure. We want both. All our soils contain more or less plant-food; good tillage develops it and renders it slowly available. It is to this that we must look first; and when we have grown a crop, the manure made from it helps us to get still more and larger returns. The soil is the farmer's mine; it is not merely a bag for holding or a stomach for digesting manure.

Cheese.

So-called whole-milk cheeses are often produced in dairies where some small quantity of butter is also made, and where some cream is necessarily abstracted from the milk. If evening milk be skimmed, and then mixed with the morning milk, half-skim cheese will be the product. The skimming of milk, too, may be carried out so completely as to leave very little milk-fat for the cheese, or else it may be done so imperfectly as to affect very slight

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, October 20, 1877.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.
$2.00 IN ADVANCE, OR $2.50 IF NOT PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DATE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Postage Free to all Subscribers.

☞All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for moneys remitted by him.

☞A subscriber desiring to change his post-office direction or to discontinue his paper, must communicate to us the *name of the office to which it has previously been sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices.

Mr. C. S. AYER will call upon our subscribers in Oxford county during the month of October.
Mr. J. P. CLARK will visit Aroostook county during October.
Mr. S. N. Taber will call upon our subscribers in Washington county in October.

The Folly of Crime.

William C. Gilman, the New York forger of insurance scrip, surrendered himself to the ministers of the law, on Thursday, was taken into court, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years' hard labor in the State prison. A written confession was read to the court by his counsel, in which Gilman stated that from time to time since he commenced business, he has had placed in his hands by friends, sums of money ranging from one hundred to twenty thousand dollars, on interest at seven per cent. These sums often remained undisturbed for a long time, and the understanding was that he employed them in his business. He denied that he ever speculated in stocks or gambled. He had made investments in enterprises which promised well but turned out badly. He knew for a long time that he was running behind, but he could not bear to look deficiencies in the face, and so his books were neglected. Until the time of the panic in 1873, he had never made any improper use of trust funds, but declining business and the financial disturbances of that year, caused him additional losses, and then he issued raised certificates, hoping that business would improve and that he would be able to extricate himself. The result was a repetition of the old. old story. He only plunged in deeper and deeper, until he became hopelessly involved.

In one part of his confession he undertakes to palliate his offence by stating that his liberality and kindness to others had been one of the chief causes of his ruin. The average reader will fail to see how this helps his case, in the least. Generosity is commendable, when properly directed, but what better right had Gilman to give money not his own, in charity, than to lavish it on himself? The fact that stolen money was devoted to charitable purposes will hardly justify the theft. It seems passing strange that a man in his right senses, will adopt a course of procedure to which there is never but one ending, and that irretrievable ruin, and thereby sacrifice reputation, happiness, personal liberty, and in fact everything that is worth living for, and yet we have had three notable instances of the fact, within a few weeks. There was Morton of Philadelphia who stood high in business circles until he so lavishly hypothecated his false railroad stock that he forgot to take up one deposit and by this means his rascality was brought to light. Then there was Col. Sibley who had an enviable military record during the late war, and was held in such high esteem by his late comrades in arms that they made him commander of the Department of Massachusetts, Grand Army of the Republic. Now he lies in jail awaiting trial and is a confessed forger. In each of these three cases, the contingency happened which their own common sense must have assured them would come sooner or later.

Gilman was a professed Christian and a leading church member, and there are those who sneer at him as a pious forger and undertake to cast reproach upon the church through him. His profession may have enhanced his credit, but no more than did the reputation of his father, who was a most worthy and much honored citizen, and one cannot see how either the father or the church can be held responsible for the moral obliquity of the son. When a person falls who has moved in the society of respectable people, it is always the signal for the "lame duck," the pickpocket, burglar, thief and confidence man to rejoice at what he considers a black eye to decency of life; to exult over the fact that one who held up his head in the sunshine, is now no cleaner or better than himself.

What misery Gilman must have suffered in his downward course! The inevitable catastrophe was ahead, but how far off it was impossible for him to tell. In precisely what guise it would appear, he was equally at a loss to determine. What sleepless nights he must have passed, and what bitter, burning thoughts must have possessed him! Even the sight of his innocent wife and children soon to become impoverished and disgraced, must have been a source of remorse and pain. A selfish regard for his own happiness and peace of mind in the absence of any higher motives, should have restrained him. Certain crimes such as the different forms of gambling, have their fascinations and delusions and entrap their victims the same as vice entraps it votaries, but there is no evidence going to show that Gilman ever gambled in any way. In fact, his dishonesty, so far as stated in his confession, appears to be peculiarly without reason or excuse; time may give us more light on the subject. It is charged by some that he lived extravagantly, and that for the last thirteen years his expenses have been above his income, but in his confession he says it gave him more pleasure to give away money than to lavish it on himself, and other testimony goes to show that his style of living has been no more expensive than was consistent for one in his social rank, and was in reasonable accordance with his position and supposed circumstances. The truth of the old Bible maxim that the way of the transgressor is hard, is demonstrated every day.

☞An appealed case came before the Court at its recent session in Oxford County, which discloses an unpardonable ignorance of statute law on the part of the justice before whom the case was brought. A man was arrested on a warrant issued by a Trial Justice at Bethel charged with perJury. After a full hearing, the Justice decided that the respondent was guilty, and fined him *five dollars and costs of court*. Was there no attorney among all the eminent barristers of which Bethel boasts, to inform the Justice that the only jurisdiction he had in the case was to bind the respondent over, and that the lightest punishment for the alleged offence is one year at hard labor in the State prison? The case was appealed and when the papers came up they, of course, were quashed. The prisoner was discharged, the county paid the bills, and Mr. Justice Dogberry is waiting for the next case.

☞According to the statutes of Maine, the standard weight of a bushel of potatoes is 60 pounds; wheat 60; corn 56; barley or buckwheat 48; English turnips 50; beans 64; peas 60; rye and corn meal 50; oats 30 pounds or strike measure; hair used in masonry well cleaned and dried, 11. All the foregoing articles are to be in good condition, and the measure shall be determined as above when either the buyer or seller requests it. Salt is bought and sold by the bushel or hogshead, and each hogshead must contain eight bushels.

CITY NEWS AND GOSSIP. The ground has been thoroughly saturated and the end of the rainy season is not yet.——Mr. G. H. Snow gathered from his garden, in this city, the other day, dead ripe beans, shell beans, green beans, beans one-half an inch in length, and beans in blossom.——The Strasburg clock on exhibition at Meonian Hall drew a large number of visitors, and is really a great curiosity. It is one-fifth the size of the original, and in every other respect is a complete *fac simile*. The motive power is five pairs of weights, and the work which they perform is a marvel.——While Mr. Asa Works was ploughing on the McDonald farm on the east side of the river last week, he unearthed an Indian axe belonging to the stone age, which is quite a curiosity.——Joseph H. Dolliver has charge of the meat and provision store, formerly occupied by the Dolloffs.——At the prize drill of the Connor Cadets last week, the first prize was taken by Sergeant Will Welch, and the second by Corporal Owen. The company showed great proficiency.——The front windows are being put into the stores of the new block, east side of Water street, and the structure begins to have a finished appearance. The stores will soon be occupied.——W. H. Simpson, the genial editor of the Belfast Republican, honored us with a brief call one day last week.——William Nichols, Daniel Daily and Henry A. Hawes were committed to jail Thursday, the two former for drunkenness and disturbance, and the latter for an assault and battery on Charles Smith.——There was a good meeting of the Augusta Reform Club at Granite Hall Sunday afternoon and evening. The principal speakers were Billy Gorman of Boston, Mr. Eustis of Dixfield and B. S. Kelley of Winthrop. The personal experience of Gorman, who is a reformed North street rough, drunkard and thief, as related by him, was quite thrilling. He is only twenty-four years of age, and has spent a good share of his short life in prison. He reformed three years ago and appears to be sincere and in earnest.——Mr. U. L. Pettengill, of the well known firm of S. M. Pettingill & Co., Advertising Agents, was on a visit to his friends in Augusta last week, and made us a brief call.——Mr. Eben Packard has raised this season ninety-eight pounds of pumpkin from one vine. He has also harvested a second crop of ruta bagas from a piece of land from which he had previously gathered an abundant crop of other produce.——John O. Page, Esq., of China, Deputy Sheriff, who has been appointed Jailer of Kennebec jail, took possession of that institution Wednesday, the 10th, and has removed his family to the jail house. Mr. Thompson, who has filled that position for several years, has removed to his residence on State street, near the State House.——There was picked up near the south end of Grove street Monday night a package containing two nice fresh mackerel. If the loser will call he cannot have the fish; it is too late for that, but he can have the editor's thanks.——Frank Arnold, aged 8 years, a scholar in the Grammar School, had his arm broken Monday while scuffling.——The Devine Water Company is extending a pipe down Winthrop to Water street.——The fine block of brick stores recently erected by E. C. Allen on Water street, is rapidly being fitted for occupancy. The building presents a fine appearance from the street, and the stores when completed will afford very desirable facilities for business.——Dow & Storer, opposite the MAINE FARMER office, having recently added a line of groceries to their meat and provision business, are reaping the reward of their enterprise in a greatly extended trade.——The Augusta Water Company propose carrying their pipes into Crescent and Gage streets. They have already completed the relaying of larger and improved pipes on Water street and Rhine's Hill, and are now at work on Grove street, with a view to a connection with the main pipes at the junction of Grove and State streets.

☞Mr. John L. Hodsdon, Jr., son of our former fellow citizen, the late Adjutant Gen. Hodsdon, gave a musical entertainment in Bangor on Thursday evening last, assisted by Miss Osgood, Miss Chapman, and Mr. Davenport, well known artists of that city. The weather was unpropitious, but a large and select audience assembled at Norumbega Hall to greet the young and talented singer on his first public appearance since his return from Europe, where he has been prosecuting his musical studies for several years past. The Bangor *Whig* thus speaks of Mr. Hodsdon's performance:

"Mr. Hodsdon made his appearance at the third number on the programme, and was greeted with continuing rounds of applause, which could hardly fail to inspire him with a desire to gratify so friendly an audience. It is safe to say that his success was assured before he had sung the first dozen notes of "*Di tua belta*," the rich volume and clear, mellow tones of his voice surprising and delighting those who heard him for the first time since his return from Europe. The grand music of his first selection was admirably adapted to bring out the power, elasticity and sweetness of his voice, and his ease of execution suggested a reserve force capable of responding to any demand. The young vocalist had every reason to be gratified by the reception awarded him by a critical, although friendly, Bangor audience, and he evidently sought to repay the obligation by throwing his whole spirit into his music. In response to an encore, he sang "*Dormi Poure*" to his own piano accompaniment, and although the effect was somewhat impaired by the position of the key-board which prevented his facing the audience, there was a gain in sympathy between the voice and the instrument which it is scarcely possible to obtain with two performers. His second announced number comprised selections in different keys, "*In Questa Tomba*" being followed by the thrilling notes of "*La Marseillaise.*" In both these renderings Mr. Hodsdon was loudly applauded, and he was enthusiastically recalled to repeat a verse of the latter, in which his voice rang out like a trumpet call."

The many friends of Mr. Hodsdon in Augusta would be glad to hear him, if his engagements will permit of a visit to this city, where we have no hesitation in promising him a warm greeting and an appreciative audience.

A GOOD STEER. Mr. L. L. Gardiner of West Sumner has a steer one year old last April that girths 5 feet 11 inches; length, 6 feet 8 inches; height, 4 feet 5 inches, and is estimated to weigh 1,000 pounds. He is a sparked steer, red and white with large star in forehead. He is as nearly perfect all over of the Durham style, as yearling steers are often made, with low short horns. Mr. Gardiner is very anxious to get a good mate for the above described steer, and would be glad to hear from any parties having such a one.

A SANCTIMONIOUS TRAMP. A religious tramp by the name of Osborne, who stole the contents of a children's contribution box for Sabbath school books, at Cape Elizabeth, put in his appearance in the western part of York county. He began work with a great deal of zeal. Things mysteriously disappeared from the houses where he visited, but he was not suspected until a person who knew his antecedents attended one of his meetings. The nex morning he had left town. Some other locality will have to suffer.

☞The Commission to revise the game and fishery laws adjourned Thursday, subject to the call of the President some time in November. Various topics were assigned to different members of the commission. They were unanimous in one thing—to make it imperative upon towns and corporations to build fishways where they are demanded.

☞Let those laugh who win; so say those who buy groceries at the low prices at Dow & Storer's. Call and see for yourselves.

KENNEBEC COUNTY ITEMS.—The closing day of the Fair at Readfield was a success in every respect. The address by Dr. Reynolds of Lewiston, is well spoken of on every hand by those who listened to it.——Thieves are reported to be at work in North Manchester. Several farmers have had small amounts of corn, potatoes, oats, and other articles stolen.——A construction train under Conductor Mathews, running wild from Richmond to Augusta, ran into an accommodation train engine Saturday while the latter was shifting cars in the yard at Gardiner. Both engines were thrown from the track. No one injured. The wild train was at fault as the shifter had the right of track according to the rules. Damages will not exceed $1000.——The managers of the Industrial School acknowledge the receipt of $10 from Mrs. J. W. Bradbury of Augusta, for the purchase of Bibles for the School. Also contributions from friends of the institution in various sums, to the amount of $242.55, for a carriage and wood shed, and other conveniences, by which the accommodations of the school are greatly improved. Mrs. E. S. Hutchinson, the newly elected matron, has entered upon her duties.——John Ware, Esq., of Waterville, died Monday, 8th inst., aged 76 years. Mr. Ware was probably the wealthiest man in Waterville at the time of his death. He was President of the Merchants' National Bank, and was at one time President of the A. & K. R. R.——Rev. Alonzo Bunker, of Toungoo, Africa, a graduate of Colby University, has made ready for the press a translation of Davie's Euclid into the Sgan Karen language, and a catechism in the Karenne dialect. He has already published a Synoptical Life of Christ in Sgan Karen, and a catechism in the Gaicho Karen—the first book printed in that dialect.——Mr. William C. Record of Hallowell, formerly of Nevada, has bought the old Kent Homestead at Kent's Hill, containing 200 acres, for $4,500. One of the best farms in the County of Kennebec.——There is said to be some wild animal in the west part of Albion which has killed several sheep; it is thought by some to be a bear. Quite a company turned out Saturday to hunt him up.——The hardware store of G. W. Folsom in West Waterville was entered by burglars Tuesday night, 9th inst. and $100 stolen.——The Patrons of Husbandry dedicated their new hall in Monmouth on Tuesday 9th inst.——The wife of Capt. Brookings of Gardiner, in a fit of insanity the other day, set her house on fire. Mr. B. while at work in his garden saw smoke issuing from one corner of the house, and extinguished it without much loss. Mrs. B. was carried to the hospital that night. She has been in the hospital before, but has been home for a year or more.——It is said there is a probability of the removal of the Pittston shoe factory machinery to Richmond.——The Gardiner *Journal* says: None of our lumbermen up here are piling logs for winter, as they have none to pile. Lawrence Bros. of South Gardiner, have enough to run their mills all winter. Mr. Lawrence informs us that there probably will be more ice housed this winter than any year before since 1874.——Mr. Hiram Doe of East Vassalboro', who but a few weeks ago had his leg taken off above the knee, is now about the house again on crutches.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT. The October term of the Supreme Judicial Court for Kennebec County, commenced Tuesday morning. Judge Libby presides. This is a long term and will probably continue through the remainder of the year. The following list of jurors have been returned to the clerk:

Grand Jurors.—Amasa Bachelder, Albion; Philo Benson, Manchester; Otis Burgess, China; Isaac Bowman, Sidney; Almon Carson, Chelsea; Amos H. Church, Augusta; Thomas Hovey, Hallowell; J. B. Dingley, Gardiner; John R. Dolloff, Mt. Vernon; Isaiah Donnell, Monmouth; Luther Mitchell, Augusta; Wm. H. Parlin, Winthrop; Stephen Parker, West Waterville; Horatio C. Porter, Vienna; P. P. Pierce, Vassalboro'; William Springer, Litchfield; Geo. W. White, Fayette; J. M. Winn, Clinton.

Traverse Jurors—Rutillus Alden, Winthrop; Robert L Clark, Augusta; Samuel Davis, Sidney; Blake L. Dow, Clinton; Abner Fogg, Augusta; Ira E. Getchell, Winslow; Wm. W. Hankerson, Chelsea; Isaiah Hawes, Vassalboro'; S. D. Jordan, Hallowell; George S. Morrill Readfield; David T. Neal, Augusta; O. D. Norcross, Hallowell; S. G. Nutting, Litchfield; Joseph Perry, Gardiner; Franklin Powers, Pittston; Alden Rice, Farmingdale; John T. Richards, Gardiner; Otis Roundy, Benton; Charles W. Stevens, Waterville; Frank Trask, Windsor; Barzilla Walker, Monmouth; Albert R. Ward, China; James M. Wing, Wayne; Hartwell C. White, Belgrade; Wm. H. P. Woodbury, West Gardiner.

The court opened promptly at ten o'clock; prayer by Rev. Mr. Penney. As a few of the jurors had not arrived the court entered upon the preliminary call of the docket. In the afternoos the grand jurors were sworn and the judge delivered his charge. They retired and made choice of William H. Parlin of Winthrop, to be their foreman. Ira E. Getchell of Winslow, and Alden Rice of Farmingdale, were chosen foremen of the first and second traverse juries respectively.

☞A special to the Portland *Press* says a shooting affray occurred in the quiet village of Waterville one day last week. The circumstances are thus stated:

For some time past there has been some trouble existing between Mr. Edwin Noyes and Mr. Chas. Gilman about the line between their lots of land. A few days ago in the absence of Mr. Noyes the fence was removed some feet on to his lot by Mr. Gilman. At that time some words arose between him and a Mr. Flood—the quarrel resulted in the latter receiving quite a serious blow on the head with a shovel. Mr. Noyes on coming home found how things were, and he set a crew of men about setting the fence back where it had been for years, and had been settled years ago as the place for it. While the men were at work they were surprised by the report of a gun; not only once but time and again it was repeated. They kept at work although the bullets and buck-shot whistled thick around them, and two or three received flesh wounds, one man being shot in the leg and arm. While Mr. Gilman was thus engaged in his deadly work behind a board fence some 20 rods or more off, Sheriff Carleton and other officers made him a call. He offered some resistance, but was finally deprived of his rifle and double-barrelled shot gun and taken before a justice of the peace. He was put under $11,000 bonds to appear at the court in Augusta this week.

The excitement was so intense that lynching was talked of quite strongly. During the firing although there were many passing by and about at the time, none were injured but the workmen, and they not seriously. Some, however, had very narrow escapes. Gilman is the same man who shot his own brother in New York in the course of a quarrel about a will.

☞A gang of burglars has been operating in Waterville and vicinity for some time past. Several houses and stores have been broken open and more or less property stolen. The matter was put into the hands of detective J. S. Heald of Portland, who has for several months been working up the case, resulting at length in the arrest of of L. W. Cochran, Willard Thompson, Manley Brooks and John Johnson, and their lodgment in Kennebec Jail. It is said that the evidence against them is convincing. In Augusta quite a number of houses have been searched and stolen property found in eight of them. Mr. Heald has received valuable assistance from the city marshals of Augusta and Gardiner, and from Mr. Benjamin Hersom of Waterville.

☞The Lewiston *Journal* says that the number of lock-makers who own the patent time locks in our bank vaults is astonishing. Every few days our banks are notified to fork over to somebody or stand a suit. Having bought and paid for these locks, the banks propose to let the disgruntled locksmiths settle their own coffee.

☞Partridge Bros., opposite the Farmer Office, have received from Holland their fall stock of fine hyacinth and crocus bulbs for winter flowering.

THE ELECTION IN FRANCE. One of the most important elections which was ever held in France, occurred on Sunday. MacMahon was placed at the head of the government to defend conservative interests, but he has deliberately played into the hands of the monarchists and Rome, and would like nothing better than to pass the government over, when his term of office expires, into the hands of any one of the aspirants for the throne, whom the pope would prefer. Latterly he has become as much of a dictator as Napoleon III. The press has been muzzled and the parliamentary government of France has been placed in jeopardy. On the eve of the election, Gambetta who has been sentenced to prison for expressing his views, sent forth a defiant challenge which has exerted a powerful influence in determining the result. The manifesto of MacMahon issued soon after, at once destroyed all hope of compromise, and alienated the moderate republicans from his support.

France is at heart republican, and she saw her institutions endangered by the caprice of the President, who has recently wielded almost absolute power. The obstinacy of MacMahon is the obstinacy of a soldier who expressed himself as determined to carry out his views, come what may. He thinks he knows better what is for the interest of France than she does herself; he distrusted the nation and the result shows that the nation distrusted him. The election passed off quietly and the result was all that the republicans could desire. The returns show that the republicans have elected 325 members of the Assembly and the Conservatives 191. Gambetta is elected, receiving 13,812 to 1611 by his competitor. M Jules Grevy is also elected in the department of Jura, defeating the government candidate by a large majority. For the actual majority of the chamber only 267 votes are required, and the republicans have 325 as already stated. This election was for the choice of members of the Assembly to succeed the one illegally dissolved by President MacMahon in May last, and is a grand triumph for the republicans. The government felt quite sure of a majority. It is quite evident that France is not yet ready to go back to imperialism.

THE PROPOSED EXCURSION. All the papers of Aroostook have editorials favoring the Press excursion to that county next year. The North *Star* printed at Presque Isle says:

The question is now being agitated by our leading citizens, of next year inviting every editor in Maine to visit us again for the purpose of looking at us in our vigor, of comparing our condition with that of twenty years ago, and give us their opinion if we are not fully warranted in claiming this to be the garden of New England.

It is also intended to invite the Maine Board of Agriculture to hold a session here at the same time. We learn that the Board has partly determined to do so. If the two bodies come at the same time it will be arranged so that the North Aroostook Agricultural Society will hold its annual Show and Fair during the stay of the visitors. The farmers of this entire valley will unite their efforts to render the Show the most extensive ever held in Maine; and it is safe to say that with a little care and attention we can give our friends an agricultural tournament beyond their present expectation, and far beyond what has ever before been seen in the State. Without any arrangement of details at this time, it has been decided to extend the invitation.

The Aroostook Times printed at Houlton closes its leader as follows:

We hope arrangements will be made, and the excursion take place next summer, that the knowledge of the soil, climate, productions and capabilities of Aroostook county may be more widely known, and disseminated through the press of Maine. The editorial excursionists will be cordially welcomed to the "garden of Maine."

☞The case of Black vs. York Manufacturing Co., was tried at Biddeford last week. This was an action brought to recover damages for the alleged destruction of his ice crop and business in ice, below the cities of Saco and Biddeford, in Saco river, by reason of the defendant corporation manufacturing their own gas and pouring into the river oil gas and noxious substances, thus impregnating the water and making the ice from it unfit for use, laying damages at $50,000.

The corporation defended and claimed that whatever they poured into the river made no perceptible difference in connection with all the sewerage of the two cities; that Mr. Black, had no ownership in the ice, and that (which was the principal point of defence and on which the case probably turned) the ice taken below the cities was not suitable for domestic use. The case occupied nearly five days in getting out the testimony and was thoroughly tried. The jury were out fourteen hours and disagreed, and it is understood that the disagreement was on the suitableness of the ice for use, standing 7 for the ice and 5 against, when they concluded their labors, and when first out they stood 9 for plaintiff and 3 against the suitableness of ice.

GOOD TEMPLARS. The twentieth semi-annual session of the Grand Lodge of Good Templars opened Thursday at Camden with ex-Gov. Perham in the chair. The attendance was small owing to boats laying over for the storm. The Grand Lodge officers were nearly all present. A large public temperance meeting was held; speakers ex-Governor Perham, D. W. Hunt, temperance lecturer of Indiana, and wife, a friend preacher, Mrs. Fitzgeald of Brunswick, Mr. Goldman of Tennessee and Rev. O. M Cousins. Chief Templar Perham resigned his office on account of his engagements at the Portland Custom House, but at the earnest solicitation and a unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge, he withdrew it. A committee was appointed on temperance literature, for the purpose of spreading it broadcast. The annual session in April will be held at Saco. Delegates to the Reform Conventions were chosen.

LAND OFFICE RECORDS. The work of arranging, binding and indexing the records and maps in the Land office has been completed, and the State now possesses in orderly files complete copies of all deeds ever made of lands in this State by either or both of the States of Massachusetts and Maine, field notes of the very numerous surveys and a vast amount of other documentary matter pertaining to such land, and what is of still greater value the entire stock of plans of all State surveys made during the past century, embracing not only the Maine lands, but all the islands on our coast. These plans have been collected and arranged and all firmly bound in half Russia with cloth sides and open backs, forming fourteen or fifteen volumes, averaging in size about 24 by 30 inches, and 100 pages in thickness, the whole containing very nearly or quite 1,000 plans in number. These volumes are each carefully indexed so as to render reference to them ready and easy, under the various names by which the plans have been generally known, and a general index of all the volumes is being prepared.

☞The attention of our readers is called to the advertisement of H. B. Wardwell of Oxford, which may be found in another column. Mr. Wardwell is engaged largely in the manufacture of picture frames and mouldings, and his facilities are such, that he can furnish goods of superior quality, much cheaper than manufacturers who reside out of the State.

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON. The thirty-first annual convention of the Delta Kappa Epsilon—one of the oldest and best of the college secret societies—was held with the Mu Chapter, at Madison University, Hamilton, on Wednesday and Thursday, October 10th and 11th. The public exercises were held on Thursday evening. Hon. James W. Husted delivered the address.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. The President submitted his message to Congress on Tuesday. It is a brief document—devoted first to the objects for which the extra session was called, and then referring to the Patent Office fire, the French Exposition and the International Prison Congress. The President says that as the Statutes providing for detailed reports from the different departments of the government, require their submission at the beginning of the regular annual session, he defers until that time any further reference to subjects of public interest.

The estimates submitted by the President to meet liabilities and provide for the balance of the fiscal year which ends June 1878, are as follows: Army $32,436,764.98; Navy $20,386,127; Judicial expenses $262.-555.22. Estimates for repair of the Patent Office will be presented as soon as prepared. The President calls the attention of Congress to the necessity of legislation to enable the people of the United States to participate in the International Exhibition of agriculture, industry and the fine arts which is to be held in Paris, France, in 1878, and to which the United States have been formally invited. He recommends for this purpose an appropriation of $200,000 and authority for the President to appoint a certain number of practical artisans and scientific men to attend and report their observations.

The governments of Sweden and Norway have addressed a note to this government inviting it to take part in the International Prison Congress to be held at Stockholm next year. The President recommends the renewal of the appropriation of $8000, to enable the commissioner to attend. The commissioner was appointed by President Grant in 1875, but the Prison Congress was postponed and the appropriation was returned to the Treasury.

THE ICE BUSINESS. The Ice Trade Journal, a new quarterly published in Philadelphia, gives an interesting historical sketch of the rise and progress of the ice business, which we have read with pleasure, and we doubt not that some of its statements will be of interest to our readers. Ice, or rather snow, was used as a private luxury in very early times. The ancient Greeks, and their conquerors the Romans, constructed deep underground cellars which were stored with compressed snow, and the heat of summer was tempered by the use of the stock thus gathered in winter. Nero, the tyrant, appreciated the value of ice, and constructed a veritable ice-house, and the epicurean enjoyed the pleasure thus added to his banquets.

All down through the ages, there are occasional glimpses of the use of ice by private individuals or families. But the custom of gathering ice for distribution and sale, as a branch of business, dates back only to the opening of the present century. Mr. Frederick Tudor of Boston, not content with home success, sought foreign fields. In 1806 he sent a brig to Martinique freighted with 130 tons of ice; next year he sent 240 tons to Havana. Subsequently he obtained from the Spanish Government a monopoly of the trade in Cuba, and from that moment his success was assured. In 1833 he sent 180 tons to the East Indies, and, notwithstanding a leakage of 80 tons on the passage, it was sold in Calcutta at one-half the cost of the inferior article produced by the natives. In 1834 he shipped a cargo to Brazil, and in 1836 he sent 45 cargoes, aggregating 12,000 tons. In 1846 he and other Boston dealers sent out 65,000 tons, and in 1856 Boston sent 363 cargoes or 146,000 tons. The trade included at that period the Southern ports of the United States on the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, the Bahama and West Indian Islands, Central and South America, Australia, the East Indies and China.

Boston and vicinity afford excellent facilities for securing a supply and sending it to consumers, but the trade is not by any means confined to that locality. Maine, and especially the Kennebec river, furnishes immense quantities of good ice, which has become a large item of export. The domestic and foreign market now annually demands about five millions of tons of ice, and there is hardly a town all over our land that has not its ice cart. The estimate may seem large, but it will be remembered that there is a very great waste, some people putting it as high as fifty per cent. in the quantity taken from the source of supply—the pond, lake or river—before it reaches the frequently very distant consumer. About $30,000,000 of capital is invested in the business, including buildings, vessels, machinery and utensils exclusively devoted to the trade.

The Journal indulges in a little justifiable gratulation over the fact that the ice business is founded on what is entirely worthless in its normal state, but by labor alone in transferring it to other places it becomes a valuable staple of trade; and not only is valueless ice made valuable by being carried where it is needed, but a value is also given to shavings, sawdust, etc., used in packing, which otherwise would be a nuisance requiring abatement by removal. Employment is given to a small army of men, whose labor thus becomes of incalculable worth to the community. Nor is this all; a large industry is created in furnishing ice-cutting tools, wagons, machinery, etc., required to carry on the ice trade, and America finds an immense sale of such implements in foreign countries as well as our own. There is a vast uncertainty in the ice business. The crop is not sure, for hostile elements may bring disaster to the wisest precautions, the best matured forethought, the most sleepless vigilance, and the greatest care and experience; hence it cannot be invariably said, "There's millions in it."

☞The statue of the late Edward Little executed by Simmons the sculptor, was unveiled in Edward Little Park, Auburn, on Thursday, 11 inst., in the presence of five thousand people.

A large procession of masons, children of public schools, alumni of the Edward Little Institute and others, was escorted to the park by Johnson's band.

The city council of Lewiston and Auburn participated in the imposing exercises. After music by the band, Mayor Smith of Auburn, assisted by Mayor Russell of Lewiston, unveiled the statue, which stood upon a granite base seven and one half feet high. The figure is seven feet in height, of fine Munich bronze, is pronounced by art connoisseurs abroad as well as by those who have seen the work in this country, one of the finest portrait statues ever executed by an American sculptor.

An address commemorating the character of Edward Little, was delivered by Judge Morrill, and a poem was read by Mrs. M. S. Reed of Auburn. Mr. Little is the founder of the religious and educational institutions in Auburn, and this statue is erected by the city in front of the Edward Little high school building in commemoration of the great service of Mr. Little to the city.

HEAVY FAILURE. The paper of the firm of Russell, Lewis & Co., of Portland went to protest last week, and a meeting of the creditor has been held. The firm commenced business in 1861, and established the line of packets known as Lewis' White Line, plying between Portland and South America. They have been extensive shippers of lumber to South America, own large saw mill in Canada and have large interests in Buenos Ayres. The cause of their suspension is the depression in the lumber trade in South America, in consequence of which they have lost large sums during the last two years. Though the fact of their losses was generally known it was hoped they would be able to bear them and would safely weather the storm, and the announcement of their suspension was quite a surprise in business circls. Their liabilities are stated at nearly a quarter of a million, and assets at $75,000.

☞The thirty-second annual session of the Grand Division, Sons of Temperance of the State of Maine, will be held with Bangor Division, No. 14, on the fourth Wednesday of October, 1877, 24th day, commencing at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Free return tickets will be furnished to all representatives and members of the Order attending the session who have paid full fare over the Maine Central Railroad or its branches.

Editor's Table.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. A new volume and new serial. The number of the *Living Age* for the first week of October, begins a new volume. It has a valuable article on the Scientific Movement and Literature, from the *Contemporary Review*; a very interesting sketch entitled "The Princess Paolini"; part fourth of The Life and Times of Thomas a Becket, by the historian James A. Froude; Green Pastures and Piccadilly, by the noted author, William Black; A Study of Lower Life; The Poetry of September; Quiet People, and the usual choice poetry. In the next weekly number will be begun a new serial, a Yorkshire story, by the author of that charming story "Patty." The beginning of the present volume is therefore an excellent time for the beginning of new subscriptions. Littell and Gay, Publishers, Boston.

We are in receipt of Appleton's Journal for November. It contains Summer Ramblings in Washington Territory, with six illustrations, Dead Magazines, and a large number of other interesting articles in both prose and poetry. The ablest authors write for this periodical. It is published monthly at $3 per year, by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

From H. O. Houghton & Co., Boston, we have received the October number of the United States Official Postal Guide, containing lists of all the post-offices in the United States and much other valuable information relating to the mails. It is carefully corrected, and published quarterly at $1.50 per year, or 50 cents a number.

Godey's Lady's Book for November comes promptly to hand. It has fine steel engravings, superb fashion plates, valuable patterns for various kinds of work, choice poetry and original and crisp reading matter. The ladies all want it.

The November number of Lippincott's Magazine contains several valuable illustrated papers among which are Chester and the Dee, and Baden and Allerheiligen. There are several other articles in prose beside Poetry, Monthly Gossip, Literature of the Day, etc. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

The last of Loring's popular novels is entitled The New School Ma'am; or a summer in North Sparta. It may be found at the bookstore of J. F. Pierce.

AN OBELISK FOR NEW YORK. The New York papers say that the Khedive of Egypt has offered to present to the city of New York one of the famous Egyptian obelisks known as Cleopatra's Needle, a counterpart of the one which is now on its way to England. This monument has stood upon the shores of the Levant for more than two thousand years. It is composed of the granite of Syene or Syenite, and stands seventy feet high. It is a familiar landmark to all travellers who have visited Alexandria. The hieroglyphics on the seaward face have been partly effaced by the action of the saline winds and spray during a period of more than eighteen hundred years.

This venerable relic of the early ages is a single block of Syenite cut from the quarry, as is supposed, in the reign of Thothemus III, thirteen hundred and fifty years before Christ, or three thousand two hundred years ago. Its age is established from the inscriptions on its sides, referring to that monarch and also to Rameses II. who reigned subsequently. The former King is supposed by some biblical students to be the Pharaoh during whose reign Joseph was sold into Egypt, but others think differently. These obelisks were originally placed in pairs before the entrance of Egyptian temples and are supposed to have had some symbolic significance, though what their meaning was, scholars have been unable to agree. This particular monument with its mate which is on its way to England, formerly stood at the entrance of a temple at Heliopolis, and was removed to lower Egypt, near Alexandria, so tradition says, during the reign of Cleopatra, but it is generally believed that tradition is at fault and that they were moved some time subsequent to the death of the famous queen whose name they bear. One of them was given to England as early as 1801, by the Turkish authorities and several times since the subject of removing it has been discussed and then abandoned. At length Prof. Erasmus Wilson assumed the whole expense of removing it, and it is now in a fair way of being set up on English soil. Several similar obelisks have been, from time to time, carried from Egypt and set up in Europe. One stands in the Palace de Concorde, at Paris, France, and the expense of removal was about $400,000.

If New York accepts the offer of the Khedive, it will be necessary for the citizens to furnish the funds to pay the expenses of transportation, and it is thought that it can be brought over and set up for about $100,000. One patriotic citizen, Mr. Charles Storrs, offers to give $2000 towards making up the sum. It the New Yorkers are anxious to have an obelisk they will probably never have another so good an opportunity to get one, and in the indulgence of their expensive fancies, they have often done much worse than to set up a hundred thousand dollar monument, brought all the way from the land of the Pharaohs and looked upon, perhaps, by the one with whose history we are the most familiar. It might also be made a paying invest.nent.

A HARD CASE. A party of emigrants from Michigan to Maine, stopped over at Springfield, Mass., from the early Sunday morning train, and applied to the selectmen for assistance. They were placed in the keeping of Officer Meadon and wife at the station house tenement, and Monday morning assisted on their way by the local authorities. The party consisted of two men, two women, and five children, of such refined and cultivated appearance, that Mrs. Meadon could not think of allowing them to sleep in the lockup, after the manner of tramps, and took them all into her family. The party stated that when they started from home they had plenty of means for the entire journey, but three of the children being taken sick in a Buffalo hotel, they were obliged to remain several weeks, and their funds were eaten up by the exhorbitant prices.

THE PATENT OFFICE FIRE. The board of inquiry appointed to investigate the causes of the fire in the Patent office, have reported that it was not caused by incendiaries or spontaneous combustion. They find that a fire was built of pine boards and a blower placed over the grate in the ladies copying room in the Ninth street basement on the morning of the day the fire occurred, and that a section of wooden grating covering the gutter on the roof was set on fire from sparks or cinders which came up the flue against which it lay.

☞Mr. George Ring, one of the oldest citizens of Orono, died on Saturday the 6th inst. His parents removed to that town in 1804, when he was only nine years of age, and it was in their house that the first public school was kept in that town, the same year. This house was situated on the east side of Main street, near the present site of the Orono House and was destroyed by fire about twenty years ago. Mr. Ring has continued to reside in Orono, where he was well known and respected and where he had raised a large family of sons and daughters, many of whom, with the widow, survive him.

☞A correspondent at Lincoln Center, asks us to give our views upon the question of a geological survey of the State. We expressed our views quite freely upon the subject in our issue of August 18th, and have not since had occasion to change them.

Items of Maine News.

Bangor is to have a skating rink.

The new bridge connecting Biddeford and Saco is now open for travel.

Augustus G. Taft has been appointed Postmaster at Centre Lovell, Oxford county.

The Portland First Baptists invite Rev. T. D. Anderson of New York to succeed Dr. Shailer.

Daniel E. Gray, a native of Belfast, was run over and killed by a fire engine at San Francisco, Sept. 24.

Capt. Stuart of the schooner Ralph Carleton of Camden, died of the yellow fever at Matanzas recently.

Hon. W. W. Bolster, State Bank Examiner, is in Portland, making his annual inspections of the banks.

Lindsey Marden of Montville committed suicide on Thursday of last week at the Insane Hospital, by hanging.

The Supreme Court at its recent session at Farmington decreed five divorces, four of them on petition of the wife.

The Oak Hill Granite Company of Belfast has taken a contract to furnish 85,000 paving stones to Philadelphia parties.

Thursday a young son of B. V. Stimson of Richmond, fell from a haymow and received injuries which proved fatal.

Rev. Josiah Keen, Freewill Baptist preacher at Small Point, in Phipsburg, died

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

The Markets.

Brighton Cattle Market.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 17.

Arrivals at stock at market—Cattle 2653; Sheep and Lambs 2510; Swine 9742; Western Cattle 2390; Eastern Cattle 263; Milch Cows and Northern Cattle 330.

Price of Beef Cattle per 100 lbs, live weight—Extra quality 7 00@6 62½; first quality 6 24@6 50; second quality $5 75@6 12½; third quality $5 00@5 62½; poorest grade of coarse Oxen, Bulls, &c., 3 50@4 75.

Brighton Hides 8c per lb; Brighton Tallow 6@6½c ₩ lb. Country Hides 7@7½c per lb; Country Tallow 5@5c per lb. Calf Skins 11@12c per lb; sheared Sheep Skins 60 a75c; Lamb skins 60 a 75c each.

The supply of Cattle in market for the week is the largest of the season, and the quality upon an average was full as good as that of one week ago. On account of the large number of Beef Cattle in market prices have declined full as much as they were raised one week ago, the best Cattle this week selling at 6½c per lb live weight. Trade opened dull yesterday, there being but a few sales made until afternoon. Cattle have been arriving nearly every day since last market day, and the butchers have been buying quite largely many of them having a stock on hand.

Working Oxen—The trade for them opened dull, and the supply in market for the week is larger than the demand requires. There were a few sales made up to noon yesterday. We quote sales of 1 pr, girth 6 ft 9 in, live weight 2800 lbs, $130; 1 pr, girth 6 ft 8 in, live weight 2800 lbs, $154; 1 pr, girth 6 ft 6 in, live weight 3600 lbs, $135; 1 pr, girth 6 ft 7 in, live weight 2600 lbs, $115.

Store Cattle—Prices for small cattle depend much upon their value for beef, many of the small Cattle being bought by butchers for slaughtering purposes ranging in prices from $11a45 per head.

Milch Cows—Most of the Cows offered in market for sale are of a common grade. We quote: Extra $55a100; ordinary $25a50 ₩ head.

Sheep and Lambs—There were none from the West. Those from Maine were all consigned to G W. Hollis, and sent direct to the Abattoir to be slaughtered. Northern Sheep and Lambs sold dull at a decline of 1c ₩ lb from prices of one week ago.

Swine—No Store Pigs in market. Fat Hogs 9300; prices 6¼@6½c ₩ lb.

Boston Market.

BOSTON, Oct. 17.

Flour and Grain—There is a steady demand for flour and prices continue to be well sustained: the sales have been at $4 30a5 for Western superfine; $5 75a6 25 for common extras; $6a6 50 for Wisconsin extras; and $6 50a7 50 for Minnesota bakers, including favorite brands; winter wheats are firm and in demand at $6 75a7 25 per bbl for Ohio, Indiana and Michigan; $7a8 for Illinois; and $7a8 50 for St. Louis, including choice brands. Southern flour ranges from $7a8 75, including medium and choice family; patent Wisconsin and Minnesota brands at $8 25a9 50 for common and choice. Corn is quiet and the sales have been small at 65a67c per bush, for mixed and yellow. Oats are firm and have been in fair demand; sales at 42@44c per bush for No 1 and extra white; 38a39c for No 2 white and No 1 mixed; and 36a37c for No 3 white and No 2 mixed. In Rye the sales are limited at 80a85c for Northern and 75a78c per bush. Barley has been selling at $1 8a1 85; and fine feed and Middlings at $20a26 per ton.

Provisions—Pork is firm; sales at $9 50@11 00 for prime; $14 75@14 50 for mess; $16 00@16 50 per bbl for clear. Beef ranges from $14 50@15 50 mess and extra mess, and $15 00@16 00 ₩ bbl. for family. Lard 9¼@10c ₩ lb. for city and Western. Smoked Hams 11@12c ₩ lb. Butter sells at 15@32c ₩ lb. and Cheese from 10@14c ₩ lb. as to quality.

Produce. Eggs are firm and prices have advanced, with a good demand. The sales of fresh Northern and Eastern have been at 23a24c ₩ dozen. White Beans are in rather more demand, but the supply is large and in prices no improvement. The sales of good and choice mediums have been at $2 10a2 20; Pea Beans at $2a2 3?, as to quality; and Yellow Eyes at $2a2 12½ ₩ bush. Potatoes are in steady demand and the market is well supplied at 55a55c per bush. Onions are dull and have been selling at $1 50a1 75 per bbl. Cranberries have been in fair demand, and prices range from $5 to 7 per bbl, as to quality, for Country and Cape. Green apples have been in better demand and are firmer. The sales have ranged from $1 50a3 per bbl for common and choice. Poultry has been in good demand with sales at 17a22c for good lots of Turkeys and spring Chickens, and 14a17c for common and choice.

Hay. The arrivals of Hay have been large and the market is well supplied. The sales of coarse Eastern and Northern have been at 18a19, and fine and medium grades at 14a17 per ton. In Rye Straw the sales have been at 15a16 per ton.

Hops. The market is dull for hops and we have only to notice small sales at 10a12c per lb, but large lots could not be placed at over 9a10c per lb.

Wool Market.

BOSTON, Oct. 17.

The market for Wool remains without improvement. There is a fair business done and considerable inquiry for large lots of fine fleeces, but the views of manufacturers are fixed on low prices. There is more inquiry for medium fleeces, and combing and delaine continue to command full prices, and stocks of this description are sold up close. The sales of Ohio fleeces have been some 70,000 lbs at from 45a48c for medium XX and above, and we quote medium and X at 43a45c; XX at 47a49c; and XXX and picklock at 50a52½c per lb; 100,000 lbs Wisconsin and Michigan fleeces at 39a42½c for X and medium, and this may be considered a fair quotation for this description; 250,000 lbs combing and delaine fleeces at 44a50c for low combing, 50a57c for washed combing and delaine, and 34a37½c for unwashed: 10,000 lbs Oregon combing at 37c; 150,000 lbs unwashed and unmerchantable, including coarse carpet, at 18a37½c; 350,000 lbs California at 15a26c for new fall and 19a34c for spring; 150,000 lbs super and X pulled at 30a46c; 5,000 lbs tub at 45c; 12,000 lbs noils at 32½a60c; and 35,000 lbs scoured at 40a75c per lb.

Gold and Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.

Money was active at 7—6c—per cent on call.
Gold opened at 102¼ and closed at 102¾.

United States Sixes (coupons), 1881,		109½
" " 5.20's, 1865,		105¾
" " " 1865, (new)		104¾
" " " 1867,		107½
" " " 1868,		109½
" " New 5's,		107½
" " 10.40's (coupons),		108
" " Currency 6's,		120½

Augusta City Market.

THURSDAY, Oct. 18.

Apples—Cooking apples 75ca1 25 ₩ bush; western apples $3 50 ₩ bbl, dried 8a12c according to quality.

Beans—Have declined somewhat in anticipation of the new crop, and elbow eyes are now quoted at $1 50a1 75; pea beans $2 25a2 50—both hand picked.

Butter—prices remain uncanged, viz. store 18a20; choice lots 22a25c.

Flour—Continues as during the past few weeks the various grades being now sold at $7 50a9 50 per bbl.

Grain—Corn 72@75c; oats —a50c.

Hay—New hay first quality is plenty on the market, sales being made at $15 per ton.

Honey—Choice box honey, 25a30c per ₩.

Hides and Skins—Hides 6a6½c; calf skins 12½c; lamb skins 50ca75; deacons 22a35c; shearlings 30 a35c.

Lime and Cement—$1 per cask for lime, $2 for cement.

Native Cranberries—$3 00 per bush.

Meal—Corn 70c; rye $1 50.

Produce—Potatoes plenty at 40c; eggs have advanced somewhat and are now quoted at 20a22c; lard 14c.

Provisions—Clear salt pork, $10 00 per 100 lbs; round hogs $7 00; beef per side, 7a10c per lb; ham 12a15c; fowls 10a12c.

Shorts—$1 50 per one hur dred lbs.

Seeds—Herdsgrass $4 50a5; red top $1; Orchard grass $3; Maine clover 20 c; New York clover 18c; alsike clover 30c.

Wool—The demand for wool has been better of late, a though our local market remains unchanged from last week. Washed is yet held at 40c, and unwashed at 30c.

Wood—Mill wood, delivered, $2a2 25 per cord. Hard wood $5a6 per cord.

Portland Market.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 17.

Apples—$2 50a4 00 per bbl. Dried 9 to 10|c per lb

Butter—23a28c for choice; 18a20c per lb.

Beans—Pea $2 75a2 85; yellow eyes $2 00a2 12½.

Cheese—Maine and Vermont Factory 14a15c.

Eggs—Fresh shore $ 19a21 87½; large bank $ 15 00a 4 50; small $ 2 25a3 75; pollock $ 1 50a1 87; haddock $ 2 25a2 00; herring $ 4 00a4 50 per bbl; scaled 22a25c per box; mackerel per bbl—bay No. 3 to No. 1, $10 50 a before Nos. 1 and 2, $17 00a17 50.

Flour—Superfine $5 00a5 50; spring X and XX $6 2 a7 50; Michigan winter X and XX $7 00a7 75; patent spring wheat $ 25a10 00; St. Louis X and XX $7 25 a8 75.

Grain—Corn 66a68c; bag lots 67a68 per bush; oats 40a43; fine feed 23a24 per ton; shorts 20a21 per ton.

Hay—Loose $14a17 per ton; pressed $14 66a16 00; straw $12a9 per ton.

Lard—Per tierce 9|a10c per lb; per keg 10|a10; pail 11|a12|.

Plaster—Rock per ton $2 00; ground in bbls $1 15; calcined in bbs $2 25@2 50.

Produce.—Beef side 10@9; veal 6a8c, mutton 7a 8c; chickens 15a18c; turkeys 20a25c; eggs 20a22c; potatoes 50a40c;

Provisions—Chicago extra beef 14 50a15 00; pork hogs 9 to clear $18 00a18 50; mess $15a16; hams 12a11|c per lb; round hogs 8a7c.

Bangor Produce Market.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 17.

Beans—Yellow eyes $1 75a1 90 per bush; pea $2 25 2,90.

Butter—18a25c per lb.

Eggs—20a19c per doz.

Hay—$10a14 per ton; pressed $12a15.

Grain—Corn 60a62c per bush; corn 67a69c.

Potatoes—45a46 per bush.

Provisions—Pork 16a20 per bbl; round hog 6a7c per lb; fresh beef per side 5a8c mutton and lambs 7 a8ts.

Hides and Skins—Lambs skins 75a80 each; hide 5a6|c per lb; veal skin 12|c per lb.

Wool—Fleece wool 27a37c per lb.

☞The Argus says that last spring, at the auction sale of some property of Mr. Mighill Mason bankrupt of Bethel, a house, stable and some stores were bid off by Mr. Samuel Philbrook. Mr. Mason supposed, as he says, that Mr. Philbrook was bidding in the property for himself, but after the sale Mr. P. showed no disposition to hand over the property, saying he bought it for himself and proposed to hold it. Tuesday of last week, when Mason was away from the house, Mr. Philbrook went in and took possession. Almost immediately Mr. Mason returned, and attempted to eject Mr. Philbrook and his agents from the house. The neighborhood was soon aroused and gathered about the place. Affairs have since taken another turn. Mr. Mason went to Norway, where he is about to engage in business, and preferred complaints against Mr. Philbrook and Mr. Lane, his agent, for assault with intent to kill, alleging that in the altercation Philbrook used a knife upon him, inflicting a bad cut on his arm.

☞The Daily *Patriot* published at Concord N. H., is to be suspended at the close of the present month. The publisher, Col. E. C. Bailey, formerly of the *Boston Herald*, says the *Patriot* has run him in debt at the rate of between three and four thousand dollars a year since he started it.

☞The funeral services of the late Gen. Custer, were observed at West Point on Wednesday of last week. About three thousand people were in attendance, including the widow of the deceased, attended by Major General Schofield. The remains were buried near the grave of Gen. Scott

Congressional Summry.

Congress assembled in extra session Monday. The Senators were early in their seats.

The oath of office was administered to Stanley Matthews in place of John Sherman, J. D. Cameron in place of Simon Cameron, D. H. Armstrong from Missouri, vice L. V. Bogy, deceased.

The usual committee was appointed to join the committee of the House and wait on the president.

The only Senators absent were Morton, McMillan of Minn., and Sharon of Nevada.

A resolution that the senate committee be revised, was laid over till to-morrow, that vacancies might be filled.

House. The opening of the House was witnessed by a very large assembly. The galleries were crowded. The corridors were impassable for about two hours.

The previous clerk, Adams, called the House to order, read the President's proclamation convening Congress, and proceeded call the roll of members by States, beginning with Maine.

When Louisiana was reached the clerk stated that three sets of credentials had been received, one set signed by Kellogg one by McEnnery and the other by Nichols. He had recognized the latter and placed the names contained therein upon the rolls. When Florida was called the clerk said that he had placed the names of Davidson and Bisbee upon the rolls. One is a democrat and the other a republican. The clerk announced that 287 members had responded to their names. Samuel J. Randall was elected Speaker, receiving 149 votes to 132 for James A. Garfield. Mr. Randall addressed the House in a brief speech, the most significant paragraph of which was as follows: "Circumstances imperiously demand that all considerations of class, section or party shall be subordinated to the welfare of the whole country and of all its people. Since the adjournment an Administration has been inducted into office which is obeyed as the actual Government, regardless of the grave events which marked its birth, and the House, animated by a spirit of patriotism should frankly approve any sincere and permanent policy to complete the pacification by lawful methods of the entire country."

The oath was then administered by Mr. Kelley of Pa., and then administered by the Speaker to members. Most of the members from the Southern States took what is known as the "ex-rebel oath."

Mr. Clymer then offered a resolution electing as clerk George M. Adams of Ky.; as Sergeant-at-Arms, John G. Thompson of O.; as Doorkeeper, John W. Polk of Mo.; as Postmaster, James M. Stewart of Va.; as Chaplain, Rev. Dr. John Poisil of Md.

Mr. Hale offered an amendment substituting for these names those of Jeremiah M. Rusk of Wis., N. G. Ordway of N. H., Horace H. Harrison of Tenn., Henry Sherwood of Mich., and Rev. J. G. Butler of Washington.

The amendment was rejected and the resolution adopted without division. The oath of office was then administered to those officers, Messrs. Polk and Stewart taking the modified oath.

A committee was appointed to wait on the President and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, Oct. 16.

Senate. The Secretary of the Senate was instructed to notify the House that a quorum of the Senate was assembled and ready for business.

During the morning hour a large number of bills and petitions were referred. Among the petitions were many in favor of increasing the compensation of letter carriers. Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. Beck of Kentucky for the removal of all disabilities imposed by the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution. Referred to the Judiciary Committee. The Senate then at 12.35, took a recess until 1.15.

House. Mr. Hale rose to call up the Colorado election case.

Mr. Cox raised the point of order that cases of disputed elections must be taken up in the order in which they have been objected to, in which case the Colorado case would be the last considered by the House.

Mr. Cox's motion to send Mr. Rainey's case to the Committee was defeated by a large majority and Rainey was sworn in. He is a colored member from South Carolina.

Western Union Telegraph Co. The annual meeting of the Western Union Telegraph Company was held last week, and most of the old directors were re-elected. It was decided to make no annual report to the public. President Orton in his report says:

The increase in the number of messages transmitted over the year previous, was nearly two and one half millions. The decrease of 14.3 per cent in average tolls and increase of 12.9 per cent in the number of messages transmitted, has resulted in a decrease of $259,382 20 in net profits, as compared with the preceding year. During the year the company has increased its system by purchase, and construction, to the extent of 10,491 miles of wire.

After the arrangements for pooling the gross receipts of the business of the Western Union, and Atlantic and Pacific companies, which was done after the close of the fiscal year, the Western Union company purchased 72,502 shares of stock of the Atlantic and Pacific company, at $25 per share, paying therefor 12,500 shares of Western Union stock and $912,550 in cash. The outstanding capital of the Atlantic and Pacific company is $24,000,000, represented by $140,000 shares at par value of $100 each. When pending arrangements are fully consummated the two companies will govern the management of both companies, and it is expected that all the substantial benefits of actual consolidation will accrue. With the cessation of the wasteful competition which has existed for several years past, it will be practicable to arrange a system of tolls throughout the country, which will also be more advantageous to the public because reductions will be more widely distributed.

Col. Liberty Billings. The telegraph on Saturday announced the death of Col. Liberty Billings. He died of yellow fever at Fernandina, Florida. He was a native of Maine and received his education in this State. After graduating he went West, and was installed as pastor of a Unitarian church, which he maintained until the war of the rebellion. He then came East and entered the army as chaplain in a New Hampshire regiment. When the colored regiments were first organized he was made colonel of the first one sent to the front. At the close of the war he went to Florida, and was elected to the State Senate, of which body he was made the presiding officer. By the death of the governor and promotion of the lieutenant governor, he became acting lieutenant governor for the unexpired term. He afterwards held several important state and national offices, and then began the practice of law at Fernandina, which city has been his home until the date of his death, which occurred on Friday. When the fever broke out instead of fleeing as many did, he remained, and with the mayor and several other prominent citizens formed a committee for the care of the sick and labored for their welfare till he himself fell a victim to the dread disease.

The Indians. Gen. Miles' official report of his late battle with and the capture of Joseph's band, does not differ from previous accounts. The battle was short but severe and the victory complete.

Gen. Sheridan telegraphs the War Department that three chiefs and one hundred eighty-seven Apaches have surrendered at Wingate, and their arms and their horses will be taken from them. Others are expected and probably the whole band of Warm Springs and Apaches will soon do likewise. He has ordered them to be sent dismounted and disarmed to their agency at Canada Almosa for the present.

A despatch from the camp of the Sitting Bull commission on the Marias, the 10th, says the commission is pressing northward, expecting to meet Capt. Tyler's detachment the 12th, which will escort the commission to the border.

More Rascality. Ralph Foster, assistant treasurer of the Grand Trunk Railway Company has absconded and proves to be a defaulter in a considerable amount. He has been carrying on petty pilfering for some time through raised orders on the Employes' Accident Insurance Company, and outside parties believe that the aggregate amount will reach rather formidable dimensions. He boarded at St. Lawrence Hall, and moved in a fast circle. He pretended to have a generous allowance from friends in England. His companions say that he is in New York destitute. Others think he has sailed for Europe.

☞The New York Tribune of Monday says the police have discovered a bold and extensive scheme by lottery swindlers, involving the sale in New York, Boston, Providence, Hartford, Albany, Troy, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis, of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of tickets in a bogus and illegal Georgia lottery. Judge A. O. Lochrane, an agent of the State of Georgia, is here to prosecute. The police of other cities have been notified. The bogus lottery men have appropriated a franchise of the charitable institution known as Masonic Home for Orphans at Atlanta as a basis for this swindle.

Foreign News.

Great Britain.

London, Oct. 13. Edward Pierrepont, United States Minister to Great Britain, has tendered his resignation, to take effect on the 1st of December.

France.

Paris, Oct. 16. Among the prominent Bonapartists elected is Robert Mitchell, and among those defeated are M. de Moupas and Prince d'Arenberg.

Ten o'clock A. M. Several Republican papers speak of the investigation the elections must undergo in the Chamber. The Siecle urges the Chamber to use unsparing justice in this respect.

Noon. Complete returns, except from the colonies, show 314 Republicans and 201 Conservatives elected. Fourteen second ballots will be necessary. The conservatives retain 142 seats of the 158 held by them in the late Chamber. The Republicans retain 297 seats of the 363 members who voted the order of the day censuring the dissolution of the Chamber.

New York, Oct. 16. Gambetta says it is safe to estimate 380 Republicans in the new French Assembly.

Germany.

Berlin, Oct. 13. The failure of the Ritterschaftliche Bank of Stettin has caused general depression. The managing director has committed suicide.

Spain.

London, Oct. 16. A dispatch from Madrid says several newspapers protest against the duty of 50 cents per ton on Spanish shipping entering United States ports, which comes into operation this autumn. They reccommend retaliatory duties.

West Indies.

Havana, Oct. 15. Advices from San Domingo to the 5th inst., are as follows:

A revolution against Baez's administration is in full force. Puerto Plata is occupied by the revolutionists who were beseiging that port and expected its surrender momentarily. There is great agitation throughout the republic. There are no details from the interior, as all the roads are intercepted and communication is impossible.

The Eastern War.

London, Oct. 10. A dispatch from Belgrade states that the Russian and Servian Governments have signed a convention by which Servia has agreed to co-operate with Russia in the war against Turkey, and will furnish 40,000 men.

Constantinople, Oct. 11. The Turkish war office confirms a report of the junction of Chefkel Pasha with Osman Pasha, and the entry of reinforcements and supplies into Plevna.

London, Oct. 11. A telegram from Kars of Wednesday noon, says a battle was fought Tuesday near Aladja Dagh, lasting from noon until six o'clock. The loss was heavy on both sides. Movements are discernible this morning in the Russian camp, indicating a renewal of fighting.

London, Oct. 13. A despatch from Sistova says that active preparations are making for the reception of the Czar, in view of the intended transfer of the headquarters from Studen to that place.

London, Oct. 15. The war news is meagre. The alleged Hungarian invasion of Roumanians is declared a hoax.

The Roumanians assert that deserters from Plevna report that Osman's army is destitute of clothing and ammunition, and scantily provisioned. The men and officers are tired of fighting and suffering, and are disposed to surrender.

Advices both from Russian and Turkish sources indicate that the Russians occupied Yayni Hills, Sarbatan and Kizilteppe, which were abandoned by Mukhtar Pasha, and are maneuvering for an advantageous position, from which to make a new attack on the Turkish lines, which are now concentrating about Aladja Dagh.

London, Oct. 16. The correspondent of the Times at Sistova gives a favorable account of the Russian preparation for the winter campaign. Vast stores of corn and forage have been laid in at the depots along the roads, but the mud is frightful. On the road two miles south of Simnitza bridge it takes eight horses and twenty men pushing behind to get a light wagon through. The railroad from Fratesti to Simnitza is progressing rapidly.

Varnia, Oct. 15. The captain of the steamer which has arrived here reports that the Russian floating batteries off the mouth of the Danube have been bombarding Sulina for three days.

London, Oct. 16. A Russian official despatch, dated at the headquarters of the army of the Caucasus, October 16, says:

"Yesterday the Russians gained a great victory over Mukhtar Pasha, capturing many guns and prisoners. The Turks have been driven from the road to Kars."

The Russians pursued the Turks. The Turkish army lost many prisoners, cannon, rifles, and a quantity of provisions.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 16. The fate of Monday's battle was decided by a flank attack on Mukhtar Pasha's position from the north. At noon the Caucasian grenadiers under General Flemamn, stormed the hill and redoubt, capturing three Krupp guns. The Ezinkoz regiment occupied Aladjadagh capturing the Turkish camp. The enemy retired in disorder in three directions, being cut off in the rear from Kars.

Mormon Converts. The ship Wisconsin arrived at New York on the 6th inst., having on board 459 converts to Mormonism, in charge of twelve elders.

Of the number 212 are Scandinavian. The rest are mostly English, Scotch and Welsh. The nations represented are England, Scotland, Wales, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. These emigrants represent the third company sent out this season by the Mormon Society. A season extends from May until October. The fourth company, which is now formed, was to leave Liverpool on October 7th. The four companies represent together a totality of 2,000 souls won over to the new church. The 458 converts who arrived on Saturday, represent the labors of two years. The twelve elders or missionaries were sent out by the society, and they have been abroad ever since in various countries, doing their utmost to secure new adherents for their religion. Yes, we have worked hard for the church," said one of the elders in response to a question. "For two years we have travelled through various parts of Europe in obedience to the wish of the Lord, and we must confess that our prayers and our efforts have been successful. All have been baptised, and they have likewise confessed their faith in the Mormon religion as the true road to heaven. We do not baptise children before the age of eight, but the number of children below that age now under our charge is comparatively small." "How do you baptise in the work of conversion?" "We divided the labor as much as possible; we spread over different countries, each brother seeking to gather as many as possible to the fold. During this missionary work we are constantly travelling, preaching in the open air, in halls, in fact wherever we can get a footing. Most of our converts come from Great Britain and Scandinavia. We are not allowed to preach in France and even Germany is closed against us."

Frank Leslie's Failure. The creditors of Frank Leslie, the publisher whose failure was recently announced, had a meeting last week to hear the report of the Committee appointed to devise a plan of settlement. The report advised the creditors to consolidate their interests and entrust the entire business of Leslie to a board of management consisting of five principal creditors. It also stated that after a careful examination the books of Leslie were found in great confusion. No balance sheet has been made since 1873, and the books have not been written up since March last. The business was considered a paying one. Leslie had drawn very largely upon the resources of the establishment, the amount being about $75,000 per annum, which in their judgment was in excess of the profits. The business has also been conducted in a very extravagant manner. The committee thought that in three years the indebtedness could be paid off. The plan proposed is that Leslie should have the supervision of the business, and be allowed 20 per cent of the profits as a salary, 80 per cent to be divided pro rata quarterly among the creditors. About 100 creditors were represented and the report of the committee was adopted unanimously. The Board of management consists of Gov. Rice of Massachusetts, Wm. H. Parsons, John H. Hall, Edwin Goodwin, Jr., and William B. Wilson.

☞Kidney Diseases, Dropsy, and all Diseases of the Urinary Organs, are cured by HUNT'S REMEDY. Hundreds who have been given up by their physicians to die have been cured by HUNT'S REMEDY. All Diseases of the Kidneys, Bladder and Urinary Organs, are cured by HUNT'S REMEDY.

Clarke's Tooth-ache Drops cure instantly.

☞The best man wins sooner or later, and so does the best journal. "Andrew's Bazar" has won from the start. It fills a special place in the family, and so fills it that a successful competitor has not appeared. Every lady should have it. W. R. Andrew's, publisher, Cincinnati.

☞In the family nothing has proved a greater boon than the Raven Paste Stove Polish. It dispenses with brush, dust or disagreeable smell, and still fulfils all requirements. 4145.

Prof. Brackett's Expedition. Professor Brackett of Princeton College has furnished the New York *World* with a brief report of the Scientific Expedition lately undertaken by members of that college:

During the last academic year a large number of students, mostly from the senior class, formed themselves into a scientific association for the purpose of mutual improvement and preparation for field-work in the West. This association went about its proper work with specialists in palæontology, mineralogy, zoology, botany and topography, including hypsometry. Two past graduates volunteered to represent the important department of photography. A competitive examination, prescribed by themselves, cut the undergraduate numbers down to sixteen. On the 21st of June, when all the undergraduates save three juniors received their first degrees, they started for the Rocky Mountains. Setting out from Denver they went to the south as far as Pike's Peak, collecting along the way, even to the very summit; thence through Ute Pass, across South Park, by Salt Works, along Trout Creek to the Valley of the Arkansas; thence along the river by Granite to Twin Lakes. From Twin Lakes they went by way of Malta across the range of mountains west of the park to Fairplay; thence again crossing the range on the northwest of the park they went to Breckenridge by way of Alma, then along the Blue River to its junction with the Snake, and on by way of Montezuma over the Argentine Pass to Georgetown; thence to Idaho and Black Hawk, and finally back to Denver. There were two botanists in the party, three mineralogists, four zoologists, and five palæontologists, and their collections are said to be very valuable. The other two measured about thirty of the higher peaks in Colorado and Utah, tying their work together by careful triangulations, so as to make it available in the construction of maps. No accident or illness worthy of note occurred during the entire trip, every member of the expedition being physically improved by his experience, as well as instructed by what he observed. Many of the party left the field with extreme reluctance and are still eager for another campaign in the Bad Lands. On Wednesday, August 5, all the sections into which the expedition had been divided rendezvoused at Cheyenne, and on the following day took passage for Princeton.

Senator Armstrong. Hon. John J. Perry, in a letter to the daily *Press* says that in 1830 the new senator from Missouri came from New Brunswick on foot, and entered the school at Kent's Hill. When he arrived he told Mr. Perry, who was also a student there, that he had only twenty cents left after paying the expenses of his journey. We quote from the letter:

"This school then had connected with it a manual labor department consisting of a workshop and farm. The workshop was full, so that the only alternative left Armstrong and myself was to go upon the farm; and here we labored together, term after term, five hours each day to pay our board! We were both in about the same fix financially; this made us sympathetic and we became warm friends. During our hours of toil, our (then) future plans were frequently discussed.

Armstrong was ambitious, hopeful, and persevering. He had a kind of independence about him, which quickly resented an insult, yet no truer friend ever passed under the shadow of old Kent's Hill. I well remember the remark he made one day (strange as may seem the coincidence) that he "never would stop short of a seat in Congress."

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Before leaving the school young Armstrong acquired a good, sound, business education. His success in life has been the reward of laudable ambition, enterprise, integrity, indomitable perseverance and a fixed reliance upon himself."

Brave British Sailors. The United States Consul at Liverpool has transmitted to the Department of State an account of the abandonment of the schooner Georgie A. Snell of Boston, and the rescue of her master and crew by the British barque Thomas Brocklebeck of Liverpool. The Snell sailed from Accra, on the west coast of Africa, on the 11th of June last, for Boston, and encountering rough weather she sprung a leak and became unmanageable. Signals of distress were set on the 6th of August, and the Brockleback bore down to her assistance. The sea was so rough at the time that the captain of the Brockleback did not feel warranted in ordering his men out in the face of such danger, but five of them, Charles Hardy, Boatswain, Anthony Depsey, Joseph Carum, Patrick Barry and Herbert Filley, volunteered. They manned a small boat and at the risk of their own lives rescued the master and crew of the sinking vessel. The men of the Snell had to jump into the sea to be reached and saved by their rescuers, such was the roughness of the sea. The Brocklebeck arrived in Liverpool on the 11th of September, with the crew of the American schooner, who were taken in charge by the American Consul.

☞The statistics of the military prison at Operhaus, in Bavaria, contain some curious information as to the capacity of the Bavarian soldier for beer, which takes all the improbability out of Goethe's story about the priest who thanked God for the grace that enabled him to drink sixteen bottles at one sitting. One soldier, an artillery-man, who was discharged for lung disease, said that twenty quarts did not actually hurt him. A second, a mason by profession, said: "I never count up to more than ten or twelve quarts, but after that it goes quickly;" and a third was of opinion that, if he could get it, he would drink twenty-eight quarts a day, and not feel it. Another exclaimed indignantly that he was not drunk, for he had only had eight quarts.

The Season of Intermittents.

All miasmatic complaints, in other words, all dis order generated by unwholesome exhalations from the earth or water, are prevalent at this season. In every section subject to the visitation of fever and ague, or other forms of intermittent disease, the causes which produce these maladies are now actively at work. This, therefore, is a period of the year when the inhabitants of such districts should prepare their systems to meet the unwholesome condition of the atmosphere by a course of tonic and alterative treatment. Foremost among the invigorants, recommended by time and experience as a means of fortifying the system against all endemic and epidemic maladies, stands Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. By a timely use of the Bitters, the feeblest resident of an unhealthy soil may escape the sickness, which, without the aid of this potent ally of nature, will be apt to overtake the strongest.

Special Notices.

Various Causes

—advancing years, care, sickness, disappointment, and hereditary predisposition—all operate to turn the hair gray, and either of them inclines it to shed prematurely. Ayer's Hair Vigor will restore faded or gray, light and red hair to a rich brown or deep black, as may be desired. It softens and cleanses the scalp, giving it a healthy action, and removes and cures dandruff and humors. By its use falling hair is checked, and a new growth will be produced in all cases where the follicles are not destroyed or glands decayed. Its effects are beautifully shown on brashy, weak, or sickly hair, to which a few applications will produce the gloss and freshness of youth. Harmless and sure in its operation it is incomparable as a dressing, and is especially valued for the soft lustre and richness of tone it imparts. It contains neither oil or dye, and will not soil or color white cambric; yet it lasts long on the hair, and keeps it fresh and vigorous.

For Sale by all Dealers.

Heart Disease, by its insidious workings has brought many persons to an untimely grave. The valves and various parts of the Heart are very tender and easily disarranged, which in time will become settled Heart Disease, for the relief and cure of which we now offer you Dr. Graves' HEART REGULATOR, a preparation long and favorably known in New Hampshire, where the Doctor practiced as a regular physician. It is not a cureall, but is a medicine which goes straight to its work.

The HEART REGULATOR will assist the action of the Heart, and its continued use will afford a permanent cure. Send for a circular containing a full description of its merits, to Frank E. Ingalls, Concord, N. H. For sale at 50 cents and $1 per bottle.

1147

Ladies' Elegant Imitation Rose Coral Set, Breastpin and Ear-drops sent postpaid to any reader of this paper for 25 cents. Imitation Sleeve Buttons to match, 25 cents per set, or 3 sets for 50 cents. Elegant Necklaces with Charms, $1 each. Currency or P. O. stamps. Extraordinary inducements to agents. BRIDE & CO., Clinton Place, N.Y.

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Armstrong was ambitious, hopeful, and persevering. He had a kind of independence about him, which quickly resented an insult, yet no truer friend ever passed under the shadow of old Kent's Hill. I well remember the remark he made one day (strange as may seem the coincidence) that he "never would stop short of a seat in Congress."

Armstrong among the students was a leader. Being an athlete, he was the terror of the class of scholars who were disposed to "poke fun" at the humble occupation of the farm boys. A "nice young man" of aristocratic birth and rich parents, for a series of insults and "young yeomanry" was sounding thrashed by Armstrong. This completely cured him, and all others alike inclined; and our "inalienable rights" were ever after duly respected.

Before leaving the school young Armstrong acquired a good, sound, business education. His success in life has been the reward of laudable ambition, enterprise, integrity, indomitable perseverance and a fixed reliance upon himself."

Brave British Sailors. The United States Consul at Liverpool has transmitted to the Department of State an account of the abandonment of the schooner Georgie A. Snell of Boston, and the rescue of her master and crew by the British barque Thomas Brocklebeck of Liverpool. The Snell sailed from Accra, on the west coast of Africa, on the 11th of June last, for Boston, and encountering rough weather she sprung a leak and became unmanageable. Signals of distress were set on the 6th of August, and the Brockleback bore down to her assistance. The sea was so rough at the time that the captain of the Brockleback did not feel warranted in ordering his men out in the face of such danger, but five of them, Charles Hardy, Boatswain, Anthony Depsey, Joseph Carum, Patrick Barry and Herbert Filley, volunteered. They manned a small boat and at the risk of their own lives rescued the master and crew of the sinking vessel. The men of the Snell had to jump into the sea to be reached and saved by their rescuers, such was the roughness of the sea. The Brocklebeck arrived in Liverpool on the 11th of September, with the crew of the American schooner, who were taken in charge by the American Consul.

☞The statistics of the military prison at Operhaus, in Bavaria, contain some curious information as to the capacity of the Bavarian soldier for beer, which takes all the improbability out of Goethe's story about the priest who thanked God for the grace that enabled him to drink sixteen bottles at one sitting. One soldier, an artillery-man, who was discharged for lung disease, said that twenty quarts did not actually hurt him. A second, a mason by profession, said: "I never count up to more than ten or twelve quarts, but after that it goes quickly;" and a third was of opinion that, if he could get it, he would drink twenty-eight quarts a day, and not feel it. Another exclaimed indignant

Poetry.

A Vintage Song.

BY E. D. R. BIANCIARDI.

Once more the year its fullness pours
To cheer the heart of toil;
Once more we take with gratitude,
The blessing of the soil.
I hear the children laugh and sing,—
They pull the grapes together;
And gladness breathes from everything
In this October weather.

The winter days were long and dark,
The spring was slow to come;
And summer storms brought fear and doubt
To many a humble home.
But rain and sunshine combined their will
And wrought their work together,
And see! we heap our baskets still,
In this October weather.

My heart has had its winter, too,
And lain full bare and gray;
I did not think a spring would come,
Much less a summer day.
How little did I dream that life
Would bring us two together,
And I should be a happy wife
In this October weather.

Doubtless the frosts will come again,
And some of our hopes must die;
But we shall bear the passing pain,
And smile as well as sigh;—
Nor let us cloud with tears of ill
This golden hour together;
For God is in His garden still
In this October weather.

—*Scribner.*

Our Story Teller.

A QUEER CLUE.

In Two Chapters.

CHAPTER I.

I was an ex-detective, I am often asked to date my adventures, and at one time I was ready enough to do so; but I soon found that my tales were looked upon as dull, prosy things, and not at all like what detectives ought to have to say for themselves. Everybody seemed to think that detectives ought to find things out by a sort of magical divination; but I was reckoned a pretty good one, and I have known some of our celebrities; and the only way any of us ever found anything out was by inquiring of everybody who was likely to know a little, keeping our eyes on any probable party, holding our tongue, and putting all the scraps together. Now and then we are befriended by a lucky chance; and when this happens we get a hundred times more praise than when we puzzled out the darkest and toughest case.

The last affair I ever was engaged in was of this kind. I was first concerned in it two years before I left the police, after, by-the-by I had given up the detective branch; and I resumed it three years afterward, that is, three years after I left the police; and this is how it occurred. I must first say, however, that I don't at all regard this as one of the dull, prosy cases referred to; in fact, it it was the most exciting business I was ever engaged in.

I had left the detective branch, as I said, and indeed had left London; for when I grew a little tired of the business I was recommended to the authorities at Combestead, a thriving market-town in one of the home counties; and I had a very comfortable situation there, having little to do, very good pay, and being head of the borough police. Of course there is a great deal of difference between life in the country and life in town, and from a policeman's view it perhaps appears greater than it does to any one else; whereas I had often wondered how anybody could be detected in London, I was equally surprised to think how anybody could hope to escape in the country; for, excepting when strangers came down on some carefully planned bugiary, we could nearly always tell just where to look for our men if anything went wrong; in short, I knew everybody. As a matter of course, everybody knew me.

There was a middle-aged party living in a quiet row of houses in Orchard street—which ran parallel with our High street—a Miss Parkway, who was reputed to be pretty well off, although not extremely rich, and reputed also to be rather eccentric. She lived by herself, in the sense of having none of her relatives with her; but there were other persons, although not many, in the large house where she lived.

I had my attention drawn to her by seeing her walking repeatedly in company with a young man of no very good character, who was fully 20 years her junior, and at last I heard she was going to be married to him. All the town professed to be surprised and shocked at this, but I wasn't. Whether detectives get hard of heart in such things or not I can't say, but nothing in the way of a woman of five-and-forty marrying a man of five-and-twenty would ever surprise me, nor should I be surprised at the man marrying the woman if shehad money, as in this case.

After all, though I have said John Lytherly—that was his name—was of no very good character, yet there was nothing serious against him. He was a good-tempered, good-looking, easy sort of fellow, with a lot of cleverness about him too, that always showed itself when it wasn't wanted; and never showed itself when it might be of service. He now called himself a photographer; but had been a solicitor's clerk, an actor, a traveler for a wine merchant, a barman, and had once, before his mother died, been bought out of the lancers. However, it was now pretty well known that John was going to marry Miss Parkway, and half the young chaps in Combstead ridiculed and envied him by turns.

Matters progressed so far that it was known the lady had given orders to Bunnyman & Co., our chief bankers, to call in a thousand pounds of her money which was out on mortgage; and it was said she intended to buy one of the houses in High street and fit it up as a photographer's. It was also reported that old Mr. Bunnyman said:

"I hope, Miss Parkway, that whatever you do with your money, you will do nothing that you have not well considered."

And it is also said that Miss Parkway replied:

"If I wanted to be preached to, Mr. Bunnyman, I should go to your brother, the Ranter"—perhaps because Mr. Bunnyman had a brother who preached, though he was not a ranter at all. However, as these two were by themselves, I don't see how anyone could have known what passed; and these confidential conversations in books and histories are certainly things I do not believe in.

It was known for certain, however, that she had not only given notice, but had actually withdrawn the money; and among other things it was said she had admitted to her landlady, Mrs. Ambliss, that the match with Lytherly would break off all intimacy with her friends. She only had one relative who came to see her, and that was a gentleman living some forty miles away, but he had not been to Combestead lately. Whether he was offended or not, neither landlady nor lodger could tell; but the latter feared he was, as she had written and told him exactly how affairs stood and what steps she had taken but had received no reply to her letter.

Lytherly seemed, very naturally, to be brightening up and took our jocular congratulations—for I had my say as well as the others—in a good-tempered although rather conceited manner. One annoyance he felt, which was that everybody to whom he owed money—which was to every one who would trust him—was anxious to be the first paid; and, thinking that a little gentle pressure might help them, two or three of the tradesmen tookout County Court summonses against him and this, as he said, was very hard on him and very selfish. However, there seemed a little chance that they would defeat themselves, for, harassed and worried by these doings, he was forced to ask Miss Parkway for an advance of money, being the first time he had ever done so. He had received money from her, but she had always offered it, and pressed it upon him when he made a show, if he was not actually in earnest, of wishing to refuse it. Whether she was in a bad temper at the time or whether she was hurt at his making such a request, Lytherly could not say, but she refused to make the advance, and they parted worse friends than they had been for some time.

All this the young fellow let out at the Bell on the next Saturday, as the refusal happened on Friday. A great part of it in my hearing, for I generally took my pipe and glass at the Bell, and I saw that he was well on for tipsy. He had indeed, been drinking there some hours, and would perhaps have stopped longer, but that the landlord persuaded him to go home. He was hardly able to walk, and as I did not wish him to get into any trouble, which might mean also trouble to me, I followed him to the door, determined I would see him to his lodgings if necessary; but just then his landlady's son happened to come by. The poor chap, as I well remember, had been to the dentist's to have a tooth drawn, but his face was so swollen that Mr. Clawes would not attempt to draw it until daylight, and the poor fellow was half distracted with pain. He offered to see Lytherly home, and as he lived in the same house and slept in the some room, of course he was the fittest party to do so; and so off they went together, and in due course of time I went home too.

Next day was Sunday, and a quiet day enough it always was in Combestead. Younger men might have thought it dull, but it suited me. I had lived fifty years in London, and did not object to the steady going ways of the little town; in fact I took to going to church, and all sorts of things. Well, the day passed by without anything particular, and I was really thinking of going to bed, although it was only 9:30, for I felt sleepy and tired, when I heard somebody run hurriedly up our front garden, and then followed a very loud double knock at the door. I lived, I should mention, at a nice house in Church street, which was a turning that led from High street into Orchard street, where, as I have said Miss Parkway lived. I was just about to drink a glass of egg—hot, which is a thing I am very partial to when I have a cold, and this was winter time; but I put the tumbler down to listen, for when such a hurried step and knock came, it was nearly always for me; and sure enough in another half minute the door was opened, and I heard a voice ask if the Superintendent was in; and then, without any tapping or waiting, my door was thrown open, and I saw a young woman, whom I knew as servant of Mrs. Ambliss. The moment I saw her I knew something serious was the matter; long experience enabled me to decide when anything really serious was coming.

"Now, Jane," I said, "what is it?"

"Oh, Mr. Robinson!" she exclaimed, (I forget whether I have mentioned before that my name is Robinson, but such is the fact;) "come round at once to missus's, for we have found poor Miss Parkway stone dead and murdered in her room."

And with that, as a matter of course with such people, off she went into strong hysterics. I couldn't stop with her; so I opened my door, and equally as a matter of course, there I found the landlady and her servant listening. "Go in and take care of that girl," I said; "and one of you bring her round to Orchard street as soon as she can walk." I didn't stop to blow them up, and they were too glad to escape to say a word; so off I went, and found a little cluster of people already gathered round the gate of the house I wanted. "Here is the Superintendent," I heard them say as they made room for me. I hurried through, but had no occasion to knock at the door, for they were on the watch for me. Mr. and Mrs. Ambliss were in the passage, and a neighbor from next door; all looked as pale and flurried as people do under like circumstances.

"This is a most terrible affair, sir," says poor old Ambliss, who was a feeble, superannuated bank clerk. "We have sent for you, sir, and the doctor, as being the best we could do. But perhaps you would like to go into her room at once?"

I said I should, as a matter of course; and they led me to her room. There was a light there, and they brought more up, so that everything was plainly visible. The people had not liked, or had been afraid to disturb anything, so the room was in the same state as when they had entered it. It appeared they had not been surprised at Miss Parkway not coming down in the morning, for this was not uncommon with her; but when the afternoon and evening passed and she did not appear, and no answer was returned to their rapping at her door, they grew alarmed, and at last forced an entrance, when they found the furniture in confusion, as though a struggle had taken place, and poor Miss Parkway in her night-dress lying on her face quite dead. They lifted her on to the bed, and from the marks on her throat I judged she had died by strangulation.

As I could do no good to her, I noticed as closely as I was able the appearance of the room, and especially looked for any fragments of cloth torn from an assailant's clothes, which often remain after a struggle; or a dropped weapon, or any unusual marks. But I saw nothing. There was no difficulty in deciding how the assassin had entered the apartment and how he had left it, for the room was on the ground floor, and the lower sash of one of the windows was thrown up, although the blind was drawn fully down. The furniture was knocked over and upset; the wash-stand, which was a large and peculiar one, of a clumsy and old fashioned description, had been overthrown, and had fallen into the fireplace, where it lay resting on tue bars in a very curious manner; while the jug had fallen into the grate, deluging the fireplace with water, but extraordinary to relate, without being broken; not broken to pieces, at any rate, although badly cracked. A great deal of noise had probably been made, and cries for help probably uttered; but Ambliss and his wife were both deaf, and they and the servant all slept at the top of the big house in the front, while poor Miss Parkway slept at the bottom at the back, and in a room which was built out from the house itself.

I had time to hear and notice all this before the doctor came, and his attendance was, of course, a mere matter of form. No one could help or harm the poor woman now; so, with the information I had gained, I went to the house of the nearest magistrate, a very active gentleman and a solicitor. I ought to have mentioned that the drawers in which Miss Parkway kept her money and jewelry were forced open and every valuable abstracted, the only trace of them being a few links of a slight chain of a very unusual pattern, which, with a curious stone, the lady generally wore round her neck. This chain had evidently been broken by the violence used, and parts of it were scattered about; but the stone was gone.

Information was of course sent to Miss Parkway's relative who came sometimes to visit her. And the result of all the inquiries made was to make things look so very suspicious against young Lytherly, and so much stress was laid upon his quarrel with Miss Parkway upon her refusal to lend him money—which seemed known to everybody that I was obliged to apprehend him. I didn't want to hurt his feelings; so I went myself in a fly, although his lodgings were not half a mile from the town hall, so as to spare him from walking in custody through the streets. I found him at home, looking very miserable, and when he saw me he said:

"I have been expecting you all the morning, Mr. Robinson; I am very glad you have come."

"Well, I'm sorry," I answered. "But you may as well remember that the least said is soonest mended, Mr. Lytherly."

"Thanks for your caution, old friend," he says with a sickly smile; "but I shan't hurt myself, and I feel sure no one else can do so. That said I was glad you had come, was because from Sunday night, when the murder was found out, until now, midday on Tuesday, everybody has shunned me and avoided me as if I had the plague. I know why, and now it will be over."

I didn't put handcuffs on him or anything of that; and when we got into the street he saw the fly, round which there had already gathered at least a score of boys and girls, who had, I suppose, seen me go in. He looked around, and said: "This was very thoughtful of you, Mr. Robinson; I shall not forget it."

We drove off, and spoke no more until we arrived at the town hall. Here the magistrate were sitting; and here I found a tall, dark, grave looking gentleman talking very earnestly to Mr. Wingrave, our chief solicitor. I soon found this was Mr. Parkway, the cousin of the murdered lady. He was giving instructions to the lawyer to spare no expense; to offer a reward if he thought it necessary; to have detectives come down from London, and goodness knows what. Mr. Wingrave introduced me, and was kind enough to say that there was no necessity for detectives to be brought, as they had so eminent a functionary as myself in the town.

It was supposed that this would be merely a preliminary examination, but it turned out differently. A few of Lytherly's companions—although, as it transpired afterward, they fully believed him guilty—were yet determined he should have a chance, and so subscribed a guinea for old Jemmy Crotton, the most disreputable old fellow in town, but a very clever lawyer for all that; and Jemmy soon came bustling in. He had a few minutes' conversation with Lytherly, and then asked that the hearing might be put off for an hour.

This was of course granted, and by the end of that time he had overwhelming evidence to prove an alibi, for the landlady's son hadn't slept a wink for his toothache, and he was with Lytherly until dinner-time on Sunday; and then the accused went for a walk with a couple of friends, and did not return until after dark, having spent two or three hours at a public house some miles off, as the landlord, who happened to be in the town, it being market-day, helped to prove; the rest of the time he was in the Bell, as was usual, poor fellow.

There was no getting over this. There was not a shadow of pretense for remanding him, and so—much to Mr. Parkway's evident annoyance—Lytherly was discharged. He became more popular than ever among his associates, although the respectable people of the town looked down upon him, and they had a supper in his honor that night, at which old Jemmy Crotton presided. In default of Lytherly, no clue could be found. Not a shilling of Miss Parkway's money was ever discovered in her apartments; so her murderer had got clear away with his booty. Many wiseacres said we should hear of Lytherly quietly disappearing after things had settled down.

Some little excitement was created by Lytherly's attempts to get into the sole funeral carriage that attended the hearse; but Mr. Parkway would not permit such a thing, and was himself the only follower. It was very clear that the stranger, in common with many others, was not half satisfied with the explanation which had secured Lytherly's escape, and as I was on the ground at the funeral, I saw, as did everybody else who was there, the frown he turned on the young man, who, in spite of his rebuff, had gone on *foot* to the churchyard.

Mr. Parkway left that evening, having placed his business in the hands of Mr. Wingrave; for as there was no will, he was the heir-at-law. Now this was a very curious affair about the will, because Miss Parkway had told her landlady not many days before, that she had made her will, and in fact had shown her the document as it lay, neatly tied up in her desk. However, it was gone now; and she had either destroyed it, or the person who had killed her had taken that as well as the money; and even if the latter was the case, it was hardly likely to turn up again. So, as I have said, Mr. Parkway went home. The solicitor realized the poor lady's property; and all our efforts were in vain to discover the slightest clue to the guilty party. As for Lytherly, he soon found it was of no use to think of remaining in Combestead, for guilty or not, no one of any respectability cared to associate with him; and, as he owned to me, the worst part of it all was that old Crotton, the lawyer, whenever they met at any tavern, would laugh and wink and clap him on the shoulder, and call upon every one present to remember how poor old Jemmy Crotton got his young friend off so cleverly; how they "flummoxed" the magistrates and jockeyed the peelers, when it was any odds against his young friend.

So he went; and a good many declared he had gone off to enjoy his ill-gotten gains; but I never thought so; and one of our men going to Chatham to identify a prisoner, saw Lytherly in the uniform of the Royal Engineers, and, in fact, had a glass of ale with him. The young fellow said it was his only resource—dig he could not, and to beg where he was known would be in vain. He sent his respects to me, and that was the last we heard for a long time of the Combestead murder.

CHAPTER II.

I had left the police altogether, and was living very comfortably, my good lady and I, up at Islington, in the same street with my married daughter, who was doing very comfortably too, her husband having a good berth in the city. I had always been of a saving turn, and had bought two or three houses; so with a tidy pension, which I had earned by thirty years' service, I could afford to go about a bit and enjoy myself. Of course in all that time I had made the acquaintance of a good many professional people; and there were few theaters or exhibitions that I couldn't get admission to. We—my wife and I—made it a rule to go everywhere that we could get tickets for; and whether it was the launch of a ship, the charity children at St. Paul's, or Sam Cowell at the Canterbury Hall, it didn't mattter to us; we went. And it was at the Canterbury I first had the Combstead murder more particularly recalled to my mind.

I was there by myself, the old lady not being willing to leave my married daughter—because, well, it was in consequence of her being a married daughter—so I went myself. There was a young woman who sang a comic version of "There's a Good Time Coming" splendidly; and I was always of a chatty turn, I couldn't help remarking to the person that was sitting next to me, how first-class she did it, when he exclaimed:

"Hollo! why, never! Superintendent Robinson?" And then he held out his hand.

It was young Lytherly, but so stout, and brown, and whiskery—if I may say so—that I didn't know him.

"Mr. Lytherly!" I exclaimed, "I didn't expect to see you; and you're right as to my being Robinson, although police officer no longer. Why, I thought you were in the army."

"So I was," he returned; "but I'm out of it now, and I'll tell you how it was."

It seems he had been to India, and got some promotion after three years' service; and had the good fortune to save his colonel from drowning, or what was more likely in those parts, being taken down by a crocodile, under circumstances of extraordinary bravery. He did not tell me this last bit, but I heard so afterward. Lytherly was always a wonderful swimmer, and I remembered his taking a prize at London. The exertion or the wetting brought on a fever, and he was recommended for his discharge. The colonel behaved most liberally. But what was the best of all, the old fellow who kept the canteen at the station died about this time, and Lytherly had been courting his daughter for a good bit, more, to the girl's satisfaction than that of her father; then they got married, and came to England, and he was tolerably well off. He naturally talked about the Combstead murder, and said frankly enough, that—except the people with whom he lodged, and they were suspected, he said of perjury—he thought I was the only person in the town who did not believe him guilty of the murder.

"But murder will out, Mr. Robinson," he said, "and you see this will be found out some day."

"Well, I am sure I hope it will, Mr. Lytherly," I answered him. "But as for 'murder will out' and all that, I don't think you will find any policeman or magistrate who will agree with you there; and there was less to help us when you had got out of the scrape in this Combestead business than any affair I was ever concerned in."

"I don't care," he says, "it will come out, Mr. Robinson. I dream of it almost every night; and my wife consulted some of the best fortune-tellers in India, and they all told her it would be discovered."

"Hum!" I said; "we don't think much of the fortune-tellers here, you know."

"I'm perfectly aware of that," he says; "and I shouldn't give them in as evidence; but if you had lived three years in India with people who knew the native ways, you might alter your mind about fortune-tellers. Anyway, you will remember, when it's found out, that I told you how it would be."

I laughed, and said I should; and after we had had another glass together, and he had given me his address and made me promise to call on him, we parted.

I told my wife all about it; and it is very curious to see how women are all alike in curiosity and superstition and all that; for although my wife had been married to me for 30 years, and so had every opportunity of knowing better, yet she caught at what young Lytherly—not so very young now, by the by—had said about these fortune-tellers, and was quite ready to believe and swear that the murder would be found out. It's no use arguing with a party like that; so I merely smiled at her and passed it off.

It was the very next day that Mrs. Robinson and myself had agreed to go and see a new exhibition of paintings which some one was starting in London, and tickets were pretty freely given away for it; but the same reason which stopped my wife from going to Canterbury stopped her from going to the exhibition. I went, of course, because I couldn't be of any use, under the circumstances, to my married daughter; and a very good exhibition it was too. There were plenty of paintings, and I had gone all through all the rooms and entered the last one.

There were very few persons, I was sorry to see in the place, so that you could have an uninterrupted view of any picture you pleased. After glancing carelessly round the room, for one gets kind of surfeited with pictures after a bit, I was struck by a gloomy-looking painting to the left of the doorway, and which I had not noticed on my first entry. When I came to look closer into it, I was more than struck—I was astounded. It was a picture representing the finding of old Trapbois, the miser, in the *Fortunes of Nigel*. The heavy dull room was lighted only by the candle which the young nobleman held above his head; and it appeared to be excellently painted. But what drew my attention was that, as a part of the confusion in which the struggle between the old man and his murderers had placed the room, the washstand had been upset, had fallen into the fireplace, and the ewer had rolled into the grate, where it was shown as unbroken, although the water was flooding the boards—all exactly as I had seen the same same things five years before—so exactly that I was perfectly sure no chance coincidence had produced the resemblance, but that whoever had painted this picture had seen the room where Miss Parkway was murdered, and had had the features of the scene stamped on his memory. Who was so likely to have the scene so stamped. I instantly thought, as the murderer himself? As this rushed on my mind, I could not repress an exclamation, although pretty well guarded, as a rule. The only other person in the room heard me, and came to see what had excited me so strongly.

Apparently he was disappointed, for he looked from the picture to his catalogue then to the picture again, then at me, back to his catalogue, and then went away with a discontented grunt. I did not move, however, but remained quite absorbed in the study of this mysterious painting; and the more I looked the more convinced I became that it was copied from the scene of Miss Parkaway's murder. There were several little points which I had not at first noticed, and in fact had quite forgotten; such as the position of the fire-irons, the direction in which the water had run, &c.., which were all faithfully shown in the picture. To be brief, I had made up my mind before I left the room that I had at last found the real clue to the Combestead murder.

The artist's name was Wyndham; and I determined that I would very soon, as a natural beginning, make some inquiries about this Mr. Wyndham; and, indeed, I began before I left the exhibition. I engaged the hall-keeper to have a glass with me at the nearest tavern, and when I got fully into conversation with him, asked carelessly where Mr. Wyndham lived, as I thought I had known him many years ago, giving a description of some entirely imaginary person. The hall-keeper said no: "No, that not the sort of a man at all. Mr. Wyndham was" (here he described him;) "and he doesn't live at the west end of London, as you said, Sir, but at a place in Essex, not very far from Colchester." He knew where he lived, because he had several times posted letters to him at "The Mount." This was about all I got from the hall-keeper, but it was as much as I wanted.

I am not greatly in the habit of taking other people into my confidence, but this was an exceptional case; so, after a little reflection, I went straight to the address John Lytherly had given me, and told him what I had seen. He of course introduced me to his wife, a very pretty dark-eyed young woman; and when I told all they exchanged looks less of surprise than triumph. "Oh, it is coming out all right!" he exclaimed. "I knew the murder would cry out some day. And now you will have a little more respect for Indian fortune-tellers."

"I am not quite sure about that," I said, "But don't you go making so certain that we are going to find out anything, Mr. Lytherly; this may be only an accidental resemblance." Because, as you may suppose, I had not told them how confident I felt in my own mind.

"Accidental! Nonsense!" was all he said to that; and then he asked me what was the first step I proposed to take. I told him that I thought we ought to go down to this village and see if we could learn anything scuspicious about Mr. Wyndham; and by my own detective habits, and the way in which the officers about would be sure to help me, I thought we might reckon on finding out what we wanted. He was delighted, and asked when we should start, and when I said that very night, he was delighted still.

"It is always my rule to strike while the iron is hot, and nothing could possibly be got by waiting now; so I had made up my mind just to run home, get a few things in my bag, and go down by the 10 o'clock train. My wife, you may be sure, was very much astonished; but, as I expected she would be was just as confident in the murder being found out as young Lytherly him